

IN/SPECTRE

2



STORY BY KYO SHIRODAIRA
ART BY CHASHIBA KATASE

IN/SPECTRE

2

STORY: KYO SHIRODAIRA
MANGA: CHASHIBA KATASE



NOVEL VERSION CHARACTER DESIGNS
HIRO KIYOHARA

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AND HERE I AM, BRINGING HER TO MY APARTMENT.

SHE SAYS SHE'S KURŌ-KUN'S CURRENT GIRLFRIEND.

It's about as big as my bathroom.

19.

I AM CURRENTLY ATTENDING YOUR AND KURŌ-SENPAI'S ALMA MATER, H UNIVERSITY.

STICK

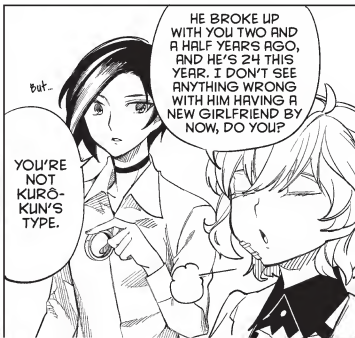
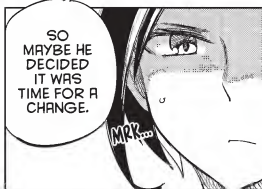
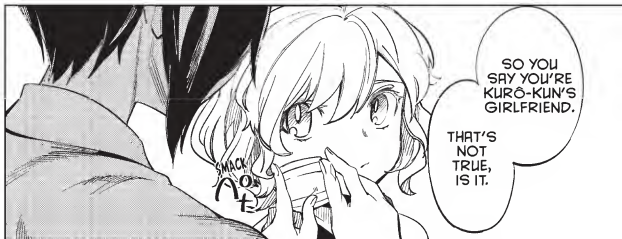
HOW OLD ARE YOU?

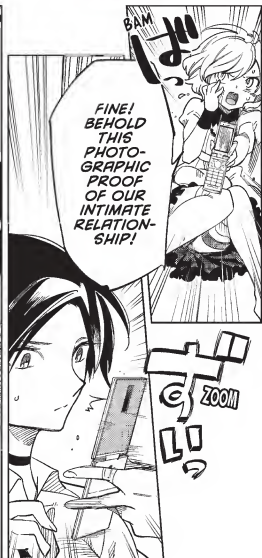
IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT YOU WOULDN'T REMEMBER.

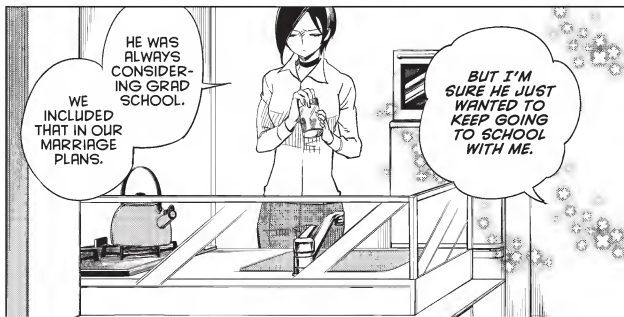
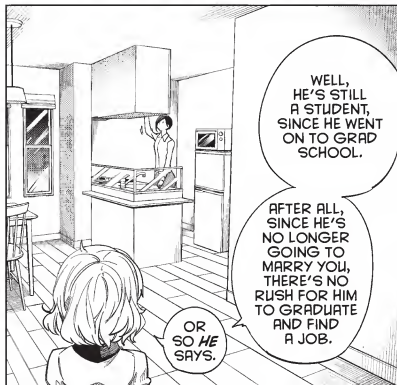
...AT THE HOSPITAL?

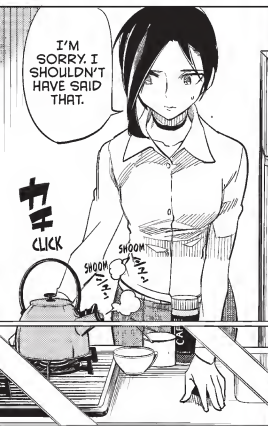
I MET YOU ONCE AT THE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL.

2.0 < TWITCH









ON THE
OTHER HAND,
THE YŌKAI AND
MONSTERS
ARE ALL
AFRAID OF
HIM.

SO
IT WOULD
BE DIFFICULT
TO COUNT
HIM AS ONE
OF THEM.



NO. IT'S
NOT ENTIRELY
ACCURATE,
BUT IT'S NOT
FAR FROM
THE TRUTH.

KURŌ-
SENPAI IS
RATHER
HUMAN-LIKE,
BUT HE
DOESN'T
QUITE FIT INTO
THE CATEGORY
OF "HUMAN."

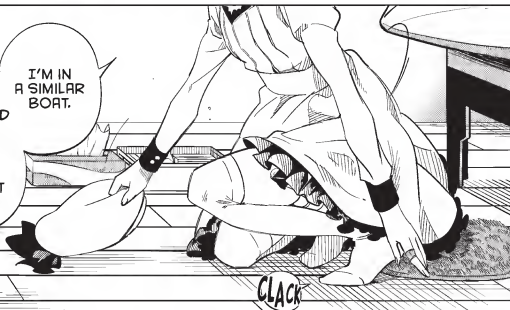


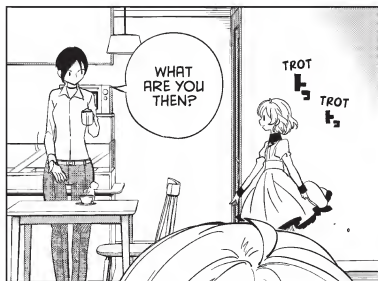
BUT...



SO I'D
SAY HE AND
I ARE A
PRETTY
GOOD
MATCH,
WOULDN'T
YOU?

I'M IN
A SIMILAR
BOAT.





THINK
OF ME AS
A SORT OF
PRIESTESS WHO
MEDIATES THEIR
GRIEVANCES
AND SOLVES
THEIR
PROBLEMS.

...TO THE
BEINGS
KNOWN
AS YOKAI,
MONSTERS,
GHOSTS,
DEMONS,
AND SO
ON.

I AM THE
GODDESS
OF
WISDOM...



I WOULD LOVE NOTHING MORE THAN TO HAVE HER TAKE CARE OF STEEL LADY NANASE.

THEN TERADA-SAN WOULD BACK OFF THE CASE, TOO.



THEN IS SHE SOME SORT OF MONSTER NEGOTIATOR?

SHE CAME HERE TO MAKURAZAKA TO DEAL WITH STEEL LADY NANASE.



OH, RIGHT



HE DOESN'T BELIEVE THAT STEEL LADY NANASE IS A REAL GHOST, SO IF WE DON'T STOP HIM, HE MIGHT GET IN PRETTY DEEP.



THERE'S A DETECTIVE WHO REALIZED THAT THERE ARE STRANGE THINGS GOING ON IN TOWN. HE'S STARTED INVESTIGATING.

There's no real reason to hide it.

OFFICIALLY? NOT YET.

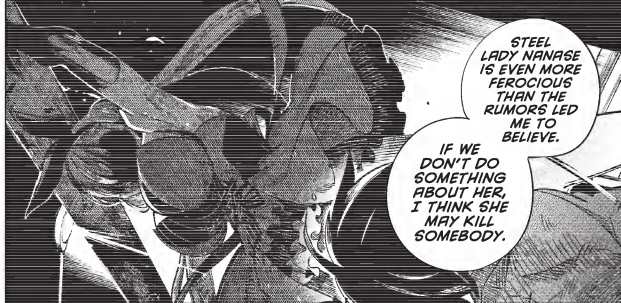
BUT THAT MAY ONLY BE A MATTER OF TIME.

SHAKE

SHAKE

ANY DAMAGE REPORTS?





STEEL
LADY NANASE
IS EVEN MORE
FEROCIOUS
THAN THE
RUMORS LED
ME TO
BELIEVE.

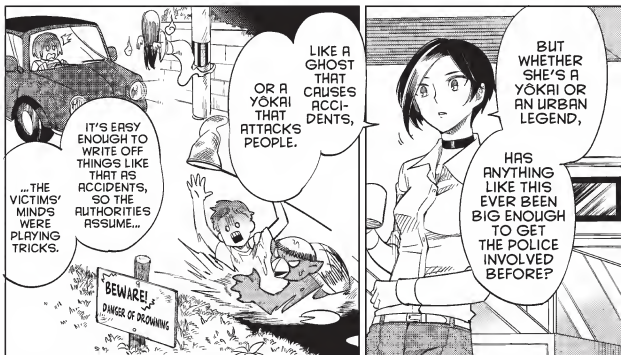
IF WE
DON'T DO
SOMETHING
ABOUT HER,
I THINK SHE
MAY KILL
SOMEBODY.



WE
MUST DEAL
WITH HER
IMMEDIATELY.

YES.

THAT'S
WHAT I'M
AFRAID
OF.



...THE
VICTIMS'
MINDS
WERE
PLAYING
TRICKS.

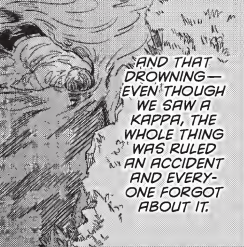
IT'S EASY
ENOUGH TO
WRITE OFF
THINGS LIKE
THAT AS
ACCIDENTS,
SO THE
AUTHORITIES
ASSUME...

OR A
YŌKAI
THAT
ATTACKS
PEOPLE.

LIKE A
GHOST
THAT
CAUSES
ACCI-
DENTS,

BUT
WHETHER
SHE'S A
YŌKAI OR
AN URBAN
LEGEND,

HAS
ANYTHING
LIKE THIS
EVER BEEN
BIG ENOUGH
TO GET
THE POLICE
INVOLVED
BEFORE?



AND THAT DROWNING—
EVEN THOUGH
WE SAW A
KAPPA, THE
WHOLE THING
WAS RULED
AN ACCIDENT
AND EVERY-
ONE FORGOT
ABOUT IT.



EVEN IF
SOMEBODY
DID COME OUT
AND SAY IT
WAS A KAPPA,
IT'S NOT LIKE
WE COULD GET
ANY PROOF.
THE POLICE
WOULDN'T DO
ANYTHING.

CURSES AND
SPECTRES—
IT'S ALL SO
HAZY, IT'S
HARD TO SAY
WHAT'S TRUE
AND WHAT'S
NOT.
THAT MAKES
THEM ALL
THE MORE
EERIE AND
MYSTERIOUS.
THAT'S WHY
EVERYONE IS
SO AFRAID
OF THEM.



THEY'RE...
YOU
KNOW.

THESE
VAGUE
INCIDENTS
WHERE YOU
CAN'T EVEN
SEE THE
PERPETRA-
TOR.



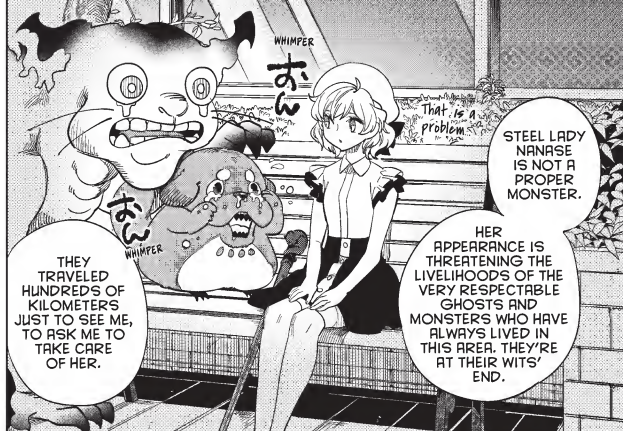
THAT'S
A GOOD
WAY TO
LOOK AT
IT.

A PROPER
MONSTER
IS MORE
MODEST, MORE
PRUDENT, IN
ITS BEHAVIOR.



SHOULD
DEMONS
REALLY BE
CALLING
SO MUCH
ATTENTION
TO THEM-
SELVES?

BUT
STEEL LADY
NANASE
WAS
DIFFERENT.



WHIMPER

おん

That is a problem

STEEL LADY NANASE IS NOT A PROPER MONSTER.

HER APPEARANCE IS THREATENING THE LIVELIHOODS OF THE VERY RESPECTABLE GHOSTS AND MONSTERS WHO HAVE ALWAYS LIVED IN THIS AREA. THEY'RE AT THEIR WITS' END.

THEY TRAVELED HUNDREDS OF KILOMETERS JUST TO SEE ME, TO ASK ME TO TAKE CARE OF HER.

おん
WHIMPER



OTHERWISE, I WOULD NEVER COME ALL THE WAY OUT TO THIS BACKWATER EXCUSE FOR A CITY.

MRK

SIGH

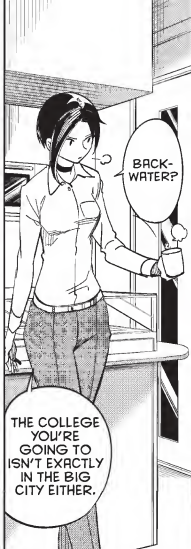


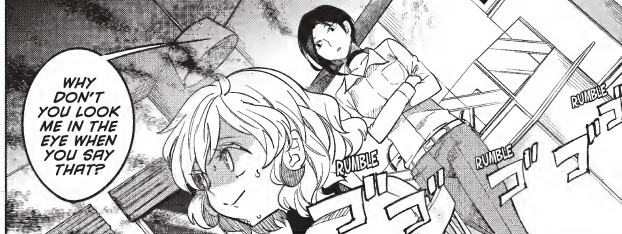
I TOLD YOU, STEEL LADY NANASE IS NOT A PROPER MONSTER.

NEITHER HER EXISTENCE NOR HER POWER.



CAN'T THE MONSTERS TAKE CARE OF THEIR OWN PROBLEMS?





WHY
DON'T
YOU LOOK
ME IN THE
EYE WHEN
YOU SAY
THAT?

RUMBLE

RUMBLE

RUMBLE



WELL...
KURŌ-
SENPAI...

GLUM



You haven't
finished your
first cup

MAY I
HAVE SOME
MORE
COFFEE?

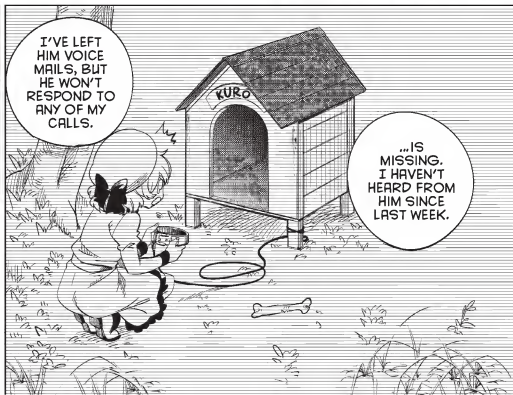
DON'T
TRY TO
CHANGE
THE
SUBJECT.

3-3-3



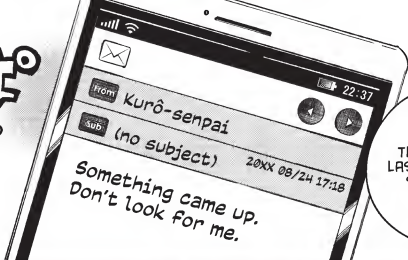
AND...

I'VE LEFT
HIM VOICE
MAILS, BUT
HE WON'T
RESPOND TO
ANY OF MY
CALLS.



...IS
MISSING.
I HAVEN'T
HEARD FROM
HIM SINCE
LAST WEEK.

は。
POP



THIS IS THE
LAST EMAIL HE
SENT ME.

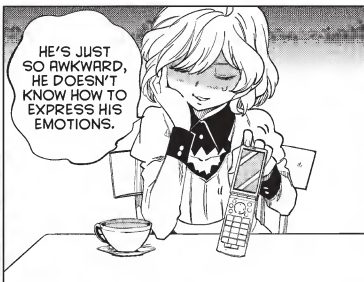


I'M
TELLING YOU,
HE REALLY
HATES YOU.

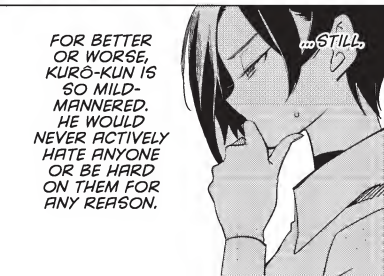
Wow...



I TOLD
YOU, YOUR
LIES WON'T
WORK ON
ME.



HE'S JUST
SO AWKWARD,
HE DOESN'T
KNOW HOW TO
EXPRESS HIS
EMOTIONS.



...STILL...

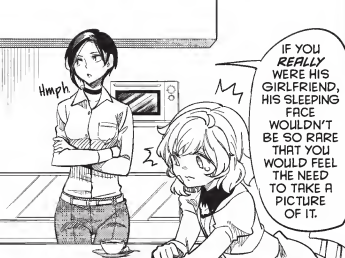
FOR BETTER
OR WORSE,
KURÔ-KUN IS
SO MILD-
MANNERED.
HE WOULD
NEVER ACTIVELY
HATE ANYONE
OR BE HARD
ON THEM FOR
ANY REASON.



SIGH?

FWUMP!

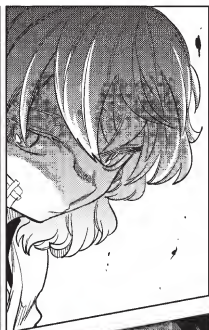


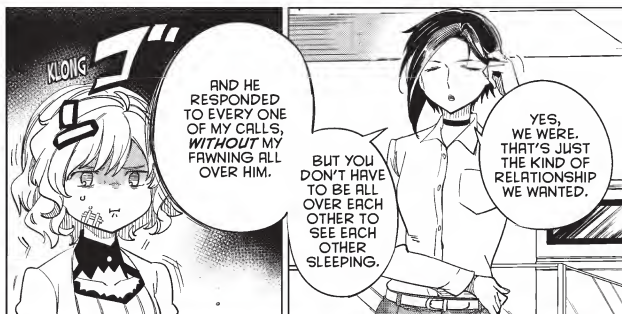


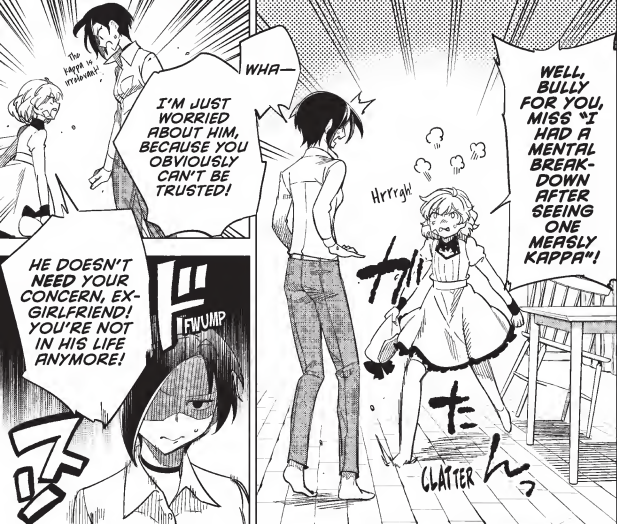
IF YOU **REALLY** WERE HIS GIRLFRIEND, HIS SLEEPING FACE WOULDN'T BE SO RARE THAT YOU WOULD FEEL THE NEED TO TAKE A PICTURE OF IT.



GRR...







The kappa is irrelevant!

WHA—

I'M JUST WORRIED ABOUT HIM, BECAUSE YOU OBVIOUSLY CAN'T BE TRUSTED!

HE DOESN'T NEED YOUR CONCERN, EX-GIRLFRIEND! YOU'RE NOT IN HIS LIFE ANYMORE!

FWUMP

Hrrrrgh!

WELL, BULLY FOR YOU, MISS "I HAD A MENTAL BREAK-DOWN AFTER SEEING ONE MEASLY KAPPA"!

CLATTER



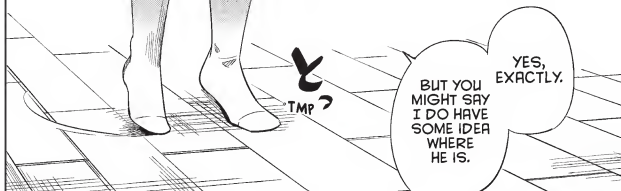
...BUT... IT STILL DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE THAT HE WOULDN'T CONTACT YOU FOR A WHOLE WEEK.

IT'S LIKE HE'S DIS-APPEARED.

YOU'RE RIGHT...

NONE OF THIS IS MY PROBLEM ANYMORE!

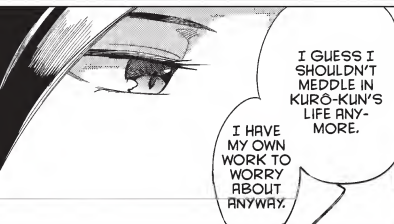
BAM おっ





...YEAH.

SHE MUST
REALLY,
TRULY
LOVE HIM.



I GUESS I
SHOULDN'T
MEDDLE IN
KURO-KUN'S
LIFE ANY-
MORE.

I HAVE
MY OWN
WORK TO
WORRY
ABOUT
ANYWAY.



AND STEEL
LADY NANASE
IS NOT A JOB
FOR THE
POLICE.

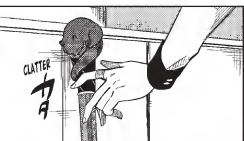
TURN
3



SHE
KNOWS,
BUT SHE
STILL
WANTS A
RELATION-
SHIP WITH
HIM.

SHE'S
DOING
WHAT I
COULDN'T.







NO
THANK
YOU!

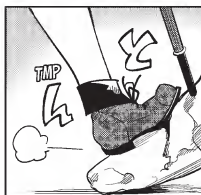
IF YOU'D
LIKE, I COULD
SEND YOU AN
INVITATION
WHEN KURŌ-
SENPAI AND
I ARE TO BE
MARRI—

SLAM

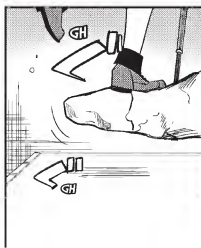
I CAN'T
BELIEVE I
RAN INTO
SAKI-SAN.
I DID NOT
PLAN FOR
THAT.

WHEW.

THWIP



TMP



CH

CH



CLACK

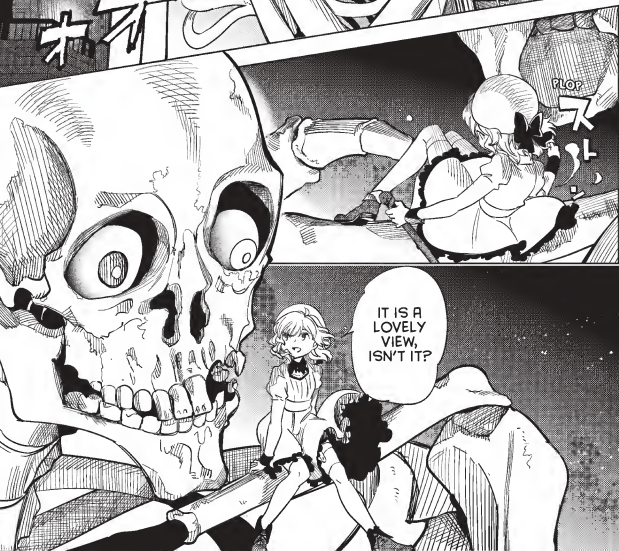
OH
WELL.

I
DOUBT
I'LL
SEE HER
AGAIN.



CLACK

CLACK





BUT
IT IS A
LITTLE
CON-
SPICUOUS,
BEING
CARRIED
BY YOU.

NOT
THAT IT'S
AN UNCOM-
FORTABLE
RIDE,

CLATTER...

7
ZH

7
ZH

7
ZH



AND
THERE'S
NO TELLING
WHERE STEEL
LADY NANASE
MAY STRIKE
NEXT.

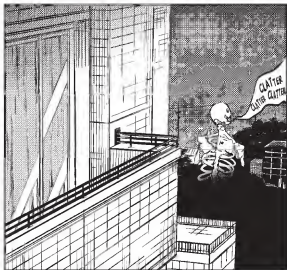
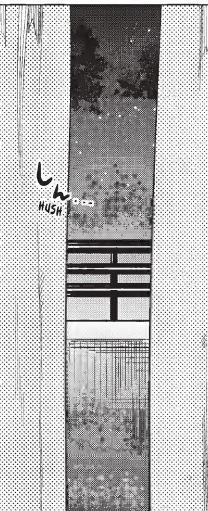
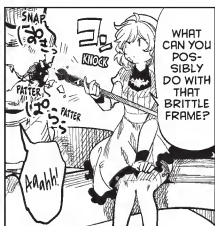


WHAT I
NEED IS A
BICYCLE.

DO YOU
KNOW
WHERE
I CAN
PURCHASE
ONE?



BUT IT'S
A BIG
TOWN.





FSH

IT'S NOT
THE JOB
OF THE
POLICE TO
CAPTURE
HER!

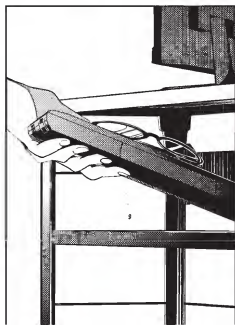
STEEL LADY
NANASE IS A
MONSTER.

MAYBE
I'M JUST
ON EDGE
AFTER WHAT
HAPPENED
TONIGHT.

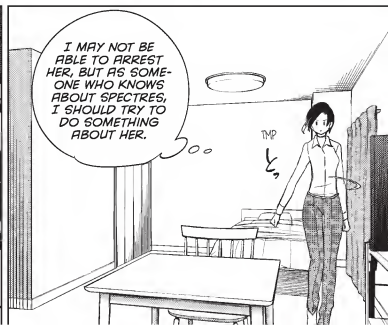
WHY DO
I ALWAYS
FIND MYSELF
MIXED UP
WITH SUCH
BIZARRE
PEOPLE?

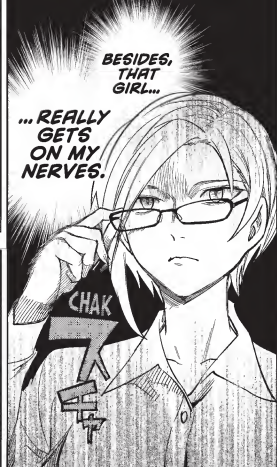


BUT I
DECIDED
I WAS
GOING
TO STOP
RUNNING.



I MAY NOT BE
ABLE TO ARREST
HER, BUT AS SOME-
ONE WHO KNOWS
ABOUT SPECTRES,
I SHOULD TRY TO
DO SOMETHING
ABOUT HER.

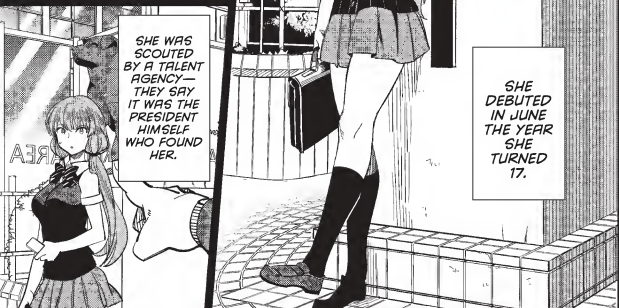






THE IDOL.
REAL NAME,
"HARUKO
NANASE," NOT
ESPECIALLY
FAMOUS.







SHE'S CUTE,
BUT SHE JUST
LOOKS, I DUNNO...
SMART.

I'M SEEING
THIS GRAVURE
IDOL A LOT
LATELY.

LIKE SHE'S
PLOTING
SOMETHING.

ESPECIALLY
THAT LOOK
IN HER EYES.

KARIN
NANASE...
HUH.



OH, SO THE
CUTE FACE HIDES
HER GORGON
PERSONALITY.

Those
books are
amazing.

I HEARD SHE
IS REALLY SMART.
THEY'RE LETTING
HER DO MODELING
AND GO TO SCHOOL
AT THE SAME TIME,
ON THE CONDITION
THAT SHE GETS
INTO A CERTAIN
NATIONAL
UNIVERSITY.



AT FIRST,
KARIN
NANASE
WAS NOT
POPULAR.

NAT-CHIN'S
SO FLAT,
THOUGH.

BUT I STILL
ONLY HAVE
EYES FOR
NAT-CHIN.



MM-
HM...

MM-
HM.

WE'RE STILL
LOOKING FOR
SOMEONE TO
WRITE IT, SO
WE CAN'T TELL
YOU ANY
MORE ABOUT
IT YET...

THERE'S
A FILLER SCENE
WHERE KARIN
NANASE IS JOKING
AROUND, SINGING
THIS SONG.



WE FIGURED
IT WOULD BE
EASIER FOR
PEOPLE TO
REMEMBER IF
WE JUST USED
YOUR NAME.

AND
YOU FIT MY
IMAGE FOR THE
ROLE
PERFECTLY.



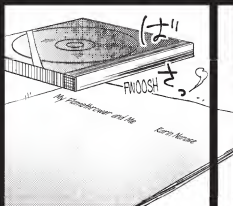
...



...IF I WENT
AHEAD AND
WROTE THE SONG
AND LYRICS
MYSELF?

WHAT
WOULD YOU
THINK...

す
ZOOM

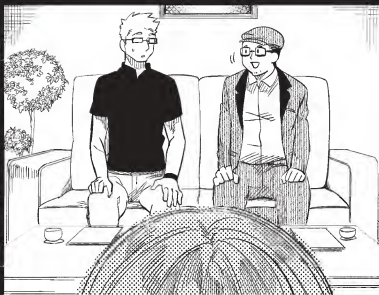


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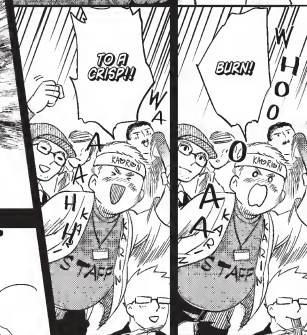
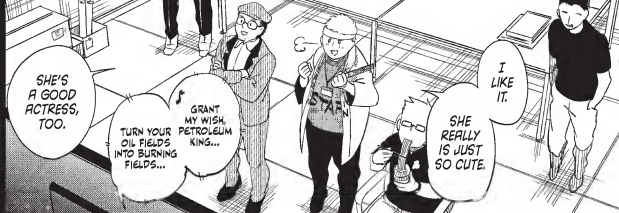
FWOOSH

My First Love

Karin Nanase







EYES: BROUGHT TO YOU BY...

AAAAAAAAH!!!

ボイ
BOING

GAAAH
HYA
HYA
HYA!
YOU'RE
SUCH
A
BOING

HAT: EVIL

BOING

UNSU-
CESSFUL
RAVURE
IDOL
KARIN
NAN'ISE!

I'VE HAD
IT WITH
YOUR
BOOB-
JIGGLING
SOUND
EFFECTS!

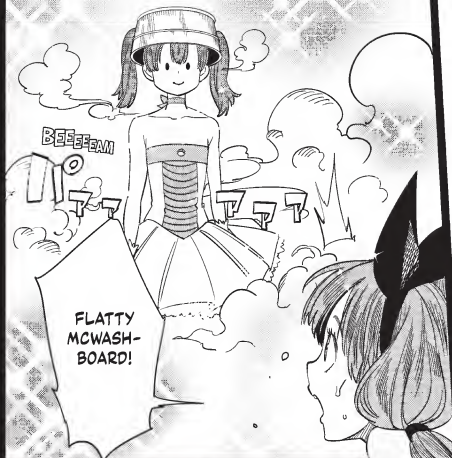
ZOOOOM

BOI-OI-OING

ほ"あゝん

I'M GONNA
SUCK THE FAT
OUT OF YOUR
BREASTS AND
ADD IT TO MY
RIDICULOUSLY
FATTENING PORK-
BONE SOUP!

NNGH, I'M
A GONER...
MY CHEST IS
TOO HEAVY...
I CAN'T MOVE.



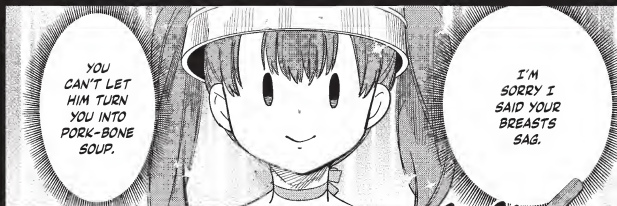
BEE-EAM

FLATTY
MCWASH-
BOARD!

DON'T
GIVE UP,
KARIN
NANASE.

THAT

THAT
VOICE!



YOU
CAN'T LET
HIM TURN
YOU INTO
PORK-BONE
SOUP.

I'M
SORRY I
SAID YOUR
BREASTS
SAG.



HERE'S A
NEW FLAME-
THROWER.
TAKE IT.

CRASH



YOU—
WHEN
DID YOU
GET THAT
FLAME-
THROWER?

I'M
GONNA
TURN
YOU INTO
ROAST
PORK!!

THANK
YOU,
FLATTY
MCWASH-
BOARD! YOU
ALWAYS HAD
SMALLER
BREASTS
THAN
ANYONE!

NNGH

I
SWEAR
I WILL
AVENGE
YOU!

BLAZING
GOD
FIRE!

OINK!!

SIZZLE

アゲ

アゲ



MUNCH
MUNCH
モグ
グ

CHOMP
140
う

TO BE CONTINUED...



FLATTY...
YOU WILL
ALWAYS BE
MY FRIEND...

STARLE
#



I'LL
NEVER
FORGIVE
YOU!!

FWOOSH
74
#

BEEP



I'M THE ONE
WHO TOLD
EVERYONE THAT
YOUR BREASTS
ARE PUMPED
FULL OF
SALINE,

BUT
WE'LL
BE BEST
FRIENDS
FOREVER
AND
EVER.

NEXT EPISODE:

NEXT
TIME!

KARIN HAS
MANAGED
TO ESCAPE
HER LATEST
CRISIS,
BUT COULD
THE TRUE
MASTERMIND
BE CLOSER
THAN SHE
THINKS?!

10
BEEEECAM

...AND YOUR
BRILLIANT
PERFOR-
MANCE.

THE
DIRECTOR'S
ECSTATIC. HE
SAYS HE OWES
ALL THE SHOW'S
SUCCESS TO
YOU...

WOW, YOU HAVE
A REAL CULT
FOLLOWING WITH
THIS "YOUTH!
THE GIRL WHO
BREATHES FIRE!"

BONG!

ほい

AH HA HA.
THAT COSTUME
REALLY PACKS
A PUNCH, TOO.

Heh
heh.

IT DIDN'T
HURT THAT I
WASN'T AFRAID
TO SHOW OFF
MY RACK.

THE DIRECTOR
PROBABLY DIDN'T
EITHER, OR HE
WOULDN'T HAVE
LET YOU KEEP THE
RIGHTS TO THE
SONG.

I DIDN'T
THINK THE
CDS FOR THE
THEME SONG
WOULD SELL
THIS WELL.

STILL,

44
CHAK



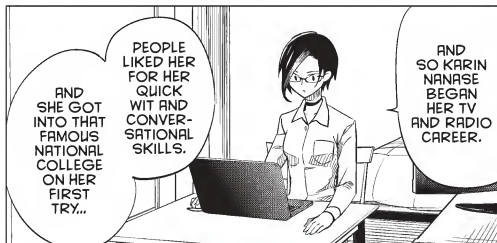


HEE HEE!

IT WAS YOUR
IDEA TO LET THIS
TAKE ME TO THE
NEXT LEVEL,
MR. MANAGER.



NO ONE
WOULD EVER
EXPECT A
NEW GRAVURE
IDOL TO EARN
SO MUCH IN
ROYALTIES.
BUT I
GUESS
THIS IS
ALL PART
OF YOUR
PLAN.



AND
SHE GOT
INTO THAT
FAMOUS
NATIONAL
COLLEGE ON
HER
FIRST
TRY...

PEOPLE
LIKED HER
FOR HER
QUICK
WIT AND
CONVER-
SATIONAL
SKILLS.

AND
SO KARIN
NANASE
BEGAN
HER TV
AND RADIO
CAREER.



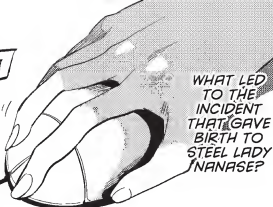
SHE ALSO
SEEMS TO
HAVE BEEN ON
THE RECEIVING
END OF SOME
JEALOUS
GRUDGES—
POSSIBLY
BECAUSE SHE
ESTABLISHED
HERSELF SO
MUCH FASTER
THAN OTHER
NEW IDOLS.

Whew!

IF YOU LOOK
ONLY AT HER
TRACK RECORD,
SHE SEEMS LIKE
A SUCCESS,
BUT SHE NEVER
GAINED MUCH
POPULARITY
OUTSIDE OF
THAT CULT
FOLLOWING.

CLICK
カ
チ

I THINK
THEY SAID
SHE CAME TO
MAKURAZAKA
TO GET AWAY
FROM THE
MEDIA.



WHAT LED
TO THE
INCIDENT
THAT GAVE
BIRTH TO
STEEL LADY
NANASE?

SO WHAT
REALLY LED
TO THE
DEATH
OF KARIN
NANASE?



WINGE

ビ
ク
ッ

鋼人七瀬まともサイト

STEEL LADY NANASE WIKI

SO THEY
HAVE LINKS
TO ALL THE
ARTICLES AND
BLOGS ABOUT
STEEL LADY
NANASE.

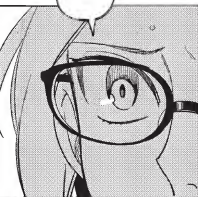
STEEL
LADY
NANASE
WIKI...?
SOMEONE
EVEN MADE
A WIKI?



The accident that killed
her father

Karin Nanase was suspected of

WHAT?



CLICK

カ
チ

CLICK
カ
チ

AND PEOPLE
CAN POST ON
THIS FORUM,
AND START
THEIR OWN
DISCUSSIONS
ABOUT HER...

鋼人七瀬まとも
ABOUT STEEL LADY

掲示板 FORUM

リンク集 LINKS

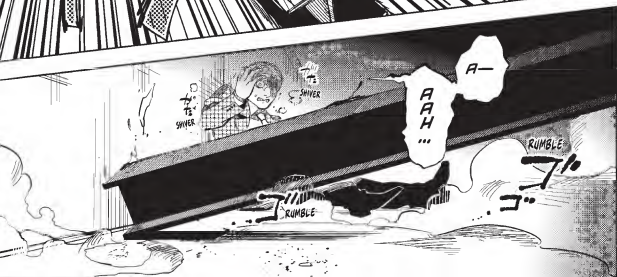


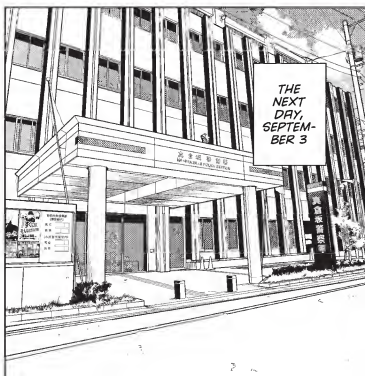
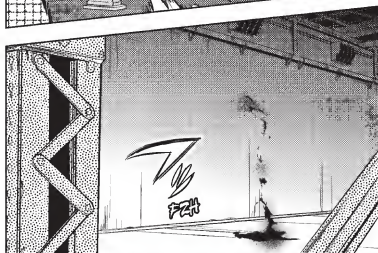
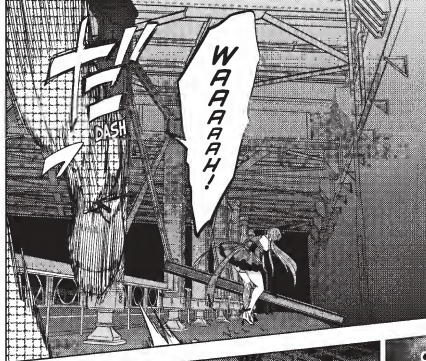
The accident that killed her father

Karin Nanase had been suspected of killing her own father.

Karin Nanase's father died in June of the year she turned 19.

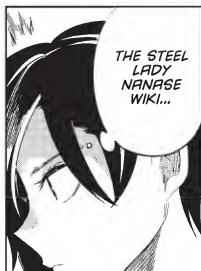












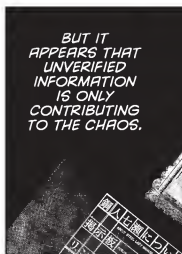
THE STEEL
LADY
NANASE
WIKI...



WHEN

FOR
A GUY LIKE
ME WHO'S
GATHERING
INFO ON THIS,
IT'S PRETTY
HELPFUL.

BUT YOU
COULD ALSO
SAY IT'S PROOF
THAT STEEL LADY
NANASE IS MAKING
HER PRESENCE
KNOWN.



BUT IT
APPEARS THAT
UNVERIFIED
INFORMATION
IS ONLY
CONTRIBUTING
TO THE CHAOS.

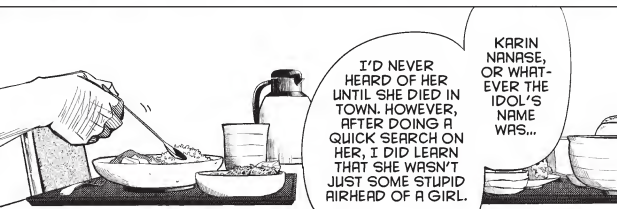
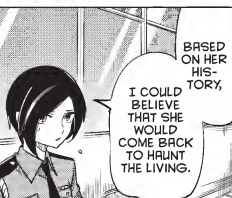
THE WEBSITE
SEEMS LIKE IT'S
COLLECTING AND
ORGANIZING ALL
THE FACTS.

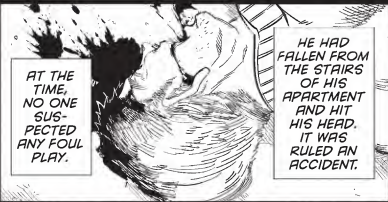


PER-
HAPS.

WE'RE
GETTING
A CLEARER
PICTURE OF
THIS "GHOST,"
AND THAT'S
NOT A
GOOD
SIGN.

IT'S
PROBABLY
EXACTLY
WHAT OUR
MASTER-
MIND
WANTS.





AT THE
TIME,
NO ONE
SUS-
PECTED
ANY FOUL
PLAY.

HE HAD
FALLEN FROM
THE STAIRS
OF HIS
APARTMENT
AND HIT
HIS HEAD.
IT WAS
RULED AN
ACCIDENT.

AT AGE
19, KARIN
NANASE
WAS ON
THE RISE.

BUT
THEN,
THAT
JUNE,
HER
FATHER
PASSED
AWAY.



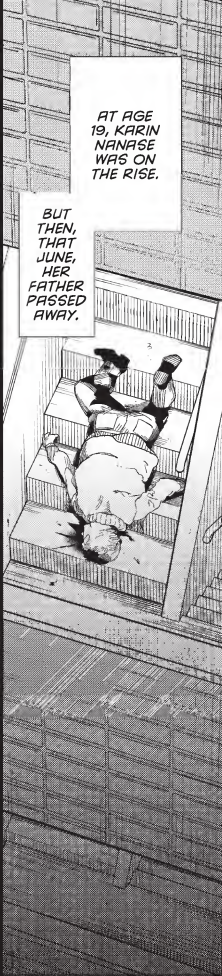
I'LL KEEP
WORKING HARD.
IT'S WHAT HE
WOULD HAVE
WANTED.

SOME
REPORTERS
INTERVIEWED
HER ABOUT
IT. SHE
GAVE THE
SORT OF
COMMENTS
ANYONE
WOULD
GIVE...

...AND KEPT
APPEARING
ON TV AS
USUAL.

... SUDDENLY,
PEOPLE
STARTED
VOICING
SUSPICIONS
ABOUT HER
FATHER'S
DEATH.

BUT AT
THE END OF
NOVEMBER
THAT SAME
YEAR...





SHE MAY
HAVE
ALSO
WANTED
THE IN-
SURANCE
MONEY.

SO SHE
KILLED
HIM AND
MADE IT
LOOK
LIKE AN
ACCIDENT.

KARIN
NANASE
STARTED
TO
RESENT
HER
FATHER...

...FOR
STOPPING
HIS WORK
AND RELYING
ON HIS
DAUGHTER
AFTER HER
SUCCESS AS
AN IDOL.

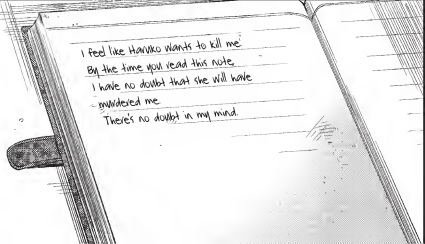


SHE'S
ALWAYS
BEEN SO
PROUD OF
HOW MUCH
SMARTER
SHE IS...

HARUKO
LOOKS
AT ME LIKE
I'M DIRT.

AT AROUND
A MONTH
PRIOR TO
HIS DEATH,
HER FATHER
HAD BEEN
COMPLAINING
TO A FRIEND
OF HIS.

THEY SAY
THAT ABOUT
FIVE MONTHS
AFTER HIS
DEATH, THEY
DISCOVERED
A NOTE IN HER
FATHER'S
HANDWRITING
THAT TOLD
OF HER
MURDEROUS
INTENT.



I feel like Haruko wants to kill me.
By the time you read this note,
I have no doubt that she will have
murdered me.
There's no doubt in my mind.

IDOL NEWS FORUMS

AND THE
 TABLOIDS
 AND GOSSIP
 PAPERS
 TOOK UP
 THE STORY
 ALMOST
 IMMEDIATELY.

THE
 STORY
 SPREAD
 ACROSS
 THE
 INTERNET.

IT STARTED
 WHEN THEIR
 MOTHER DIED A
 FEW DAYS AFTER
 SHE WAS BORN.

SO IT LOOKS
 LIKE KARIN NANASE
 HAS AN OLDER
 SISTER, BUT THEY
 DON'T GET ALONG,
 EITHER.

THEY THINK
 THEY CAN
 WRITE THIS
 GARBAGE?!

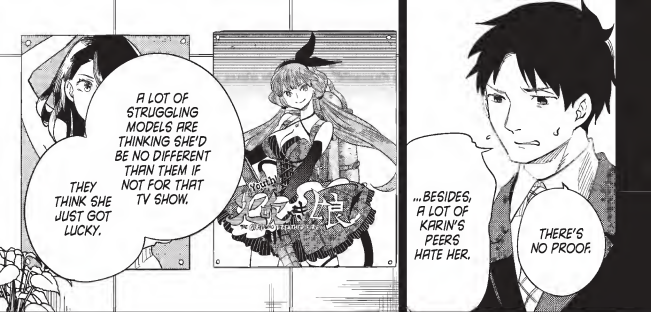
THE RUMORS
 SPREAD,
 GETTING MORE
 EXAGGERATED
 AS THEY GOT
 AROUND.

I'LL SUE
 THEM FOR
 DEFAMA-
 TION!

SOME OTHER
 AGENCY MUST
 BE SPREADING
 THESE RUMORS.

OR IT
 NEVER WOULD
 HAVE MADE
 THIS MANY
 HEADLINES.

㊦
 り GRIT
 ㊦



THEY
THINK SHE
JUST GOT
LUCKY.

A LOT OF
STRUGGLING
MODELS ARE
THINKING SHE'D
BE NO DIFFERENT
THAN THEM IF
NOT FOR THAT
TV SHOW.

...BESIDES,
A LOT OF
KARIN'S
PEERS
HATE HER.

THERE'S
NO PROOF.



EITHER WAY,
A LAWSUIT WILL
ONLY PROLONG THE
AGONY. ALL WE CAN
DO IS WAIT FOR IT
TO BLOW OVER.

IT'S POSSIBLE
THAT SOME OF
THEM ARE SAYING
THINGS ABOUT HER
ON THE INTERNET,
AND THE RUMORS
ARE SPREADING
FROM THERE.



GO SOME-
WHERE FAR
AWAY AND
TAKE A LITTLE
BREAK.

IF ANYONE
CAN MAKE
IT THROUGH
THIS, IT'S
YOU.

PAT
100
3



I'LL
MAKE MY
COMEBACK
BEFORE YOU
KNOW IT. YOU
JUST GO FIND
SOME WORK
FOR ME TO
COME BACK
TO.

YOU
DON'T NEED
TO TELL ME.
I'D ALREADY
PLANNED TO DO
JUST THAT.

WHAP

70
6
1

AFTER
THAT, SHE
WAITED OUT
THE MEDIA,
STAYING IN
HOTELS IN
ONE SMALL
CITY AFTER
ANOTHER.

AND
IN LATE
JANUARY,
SHE
CHECKED
INTO A
HOTEL IN
MAKURA-
ZAKA.

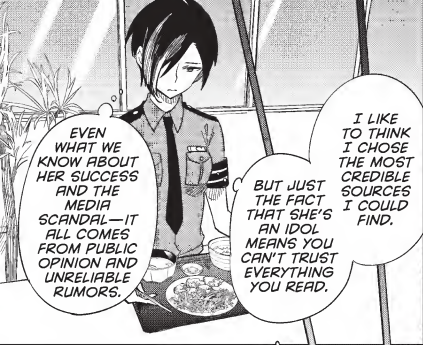
BLOBlog
KARIN NANASE'S OFFICIAL BLOG

SO KARIN
NANASE
TOOK A
BREAK
FROM HER
CAREER.

(no title)

Catch you later, dweebs.

SIGN: JR MAKURAZAKA
STATION

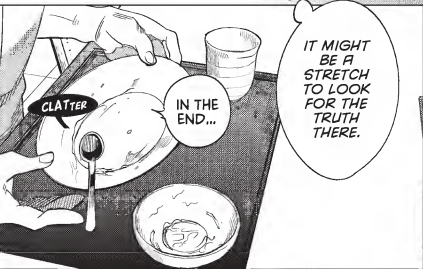


EVEN WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT HER SUCCESS AND THE MEDIA SCANDAL—IT ALL COMES FROM PUBLIC OPINION AND UNRELIABLE RUMORS.

BUT JUST THE FACT THAT SHE'S AN IDOL MEANS YOU CAN'T TRUST EVERYTHING YOU READ.

I LIKE TO THINK I CHOSE THE MOST CREDIBLE SOURCES I COULD FIND.

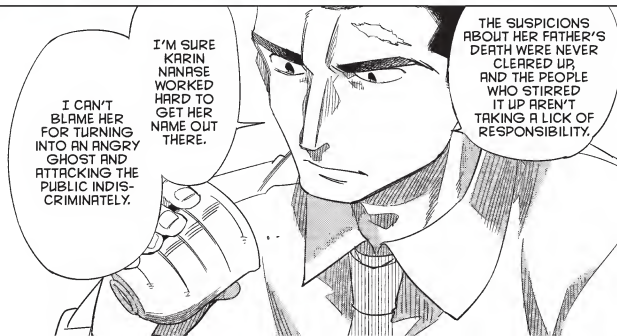
LITTLE DID SHE KNOW THAT SHE WAS DESTINED TO DIE NEAR THAT HOTEL ONLY A FEW DAYS LATER.



CLATTER

IN THE END...

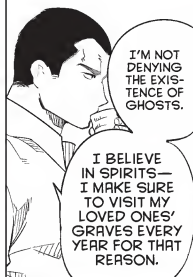
IT MIGHT BE A STRETCH TO LOOK FOR THE TRUTH THERE.



I CAN'T BLAME HER FOR TURNING INTO AN ANGRY GHOST AND ATTACKING THE PUBLIC INDISCRIMINATELY.

I'M SURE KARIN NANASE WORKED HARD TO GET HER NAME OUT THERE.

THE SUSPICIONS ABOUT HER FATHER'S DEATH WERE NEVER CLEARED UP, AND THE PEOPLE WHO STIRRED IT UP AREN'T TAKING A LICK OF RESPONSIBILITY.



I'M NOT
DENYING
THE EXIS-
TENCE OF
GHOSTS.

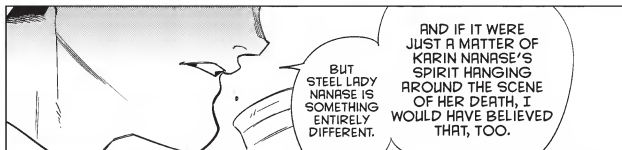
I BELIEVE
IN SPIRITS—
I MAKE SURE
TO VISIT MY
LOVED ONES'
GRAVES EVERY
YEAR FOR THAT
REASON.



BUT
I THINK...
WE CAN'T
NECESSARILY
RULE THEM
OUT, EITHER.

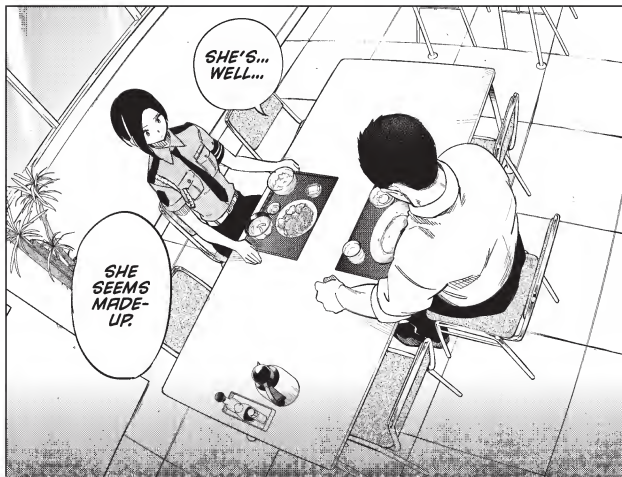
AGREED.

I KNOW
IT'S
HARD TO
BELIEVE IN
GHOSTS.



BUT
STEEL LADY
NANASE IS
SOMETHING
ENTIRELY
DIFFERENT.

AND IF IT WERE
JUST A MATTER OF
KARIN NANASE'S
SPIRIT HANGING
AROUND THE SCENE
OF HER DEATH, I
WOULD HAVE BELIEVED
THAT, TOO.



SHE'S...
WELL...

SHE
SEEMS
MADE-
UP.



HER
FACE IS
SMASHED
IN, SHE'S
SWINGS
AROUND
A STEEL
GIRDER.

SHE
WEARS A
SHORT,
FRILLY
DRESS.

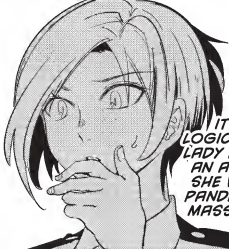
THEORETI-
CALLY, THE
PUBLIC DROVE
HER TO HER
DEATH, BUT
EVERY DETAIL
OF THIS
GHOST...

...WOULD
ONLY
FURTHER
ENTICE THEM.



AND IN
THAT CASE,
THERE HAS
TO BE SOME-
THING BEHIND
IT—SOMETHING
THAT HAS
NOTHING TO
DO WITH WHAT
KARIN NANASE
WANTS.

IT DOESN'T
MAKE SENSE
THAT A GIRL
WHO IS NOW
HAUNTING THE
PUBLIC OUT OF
HATRED WOULD
DRESS LIKE
THAT.



YES...
HE'S
RIGHT!

IT IS WEIRD.
LOGICALLY, IF STEEL
LADY NANASE WERE
AN ANGRY SPIRIT,
SHE WOULDN'T BE
PANDERING TO THE
MASSES LIKE THIS.



STEEL
LADY
NANASE
REALLY
IS A
GHOST.

BUT
CONSIDERING
THE FACTS,
IT'S GOING
TO BE NEARLY
IMPOSSIBLE
TO CONVINCE
TERADA-SAN.

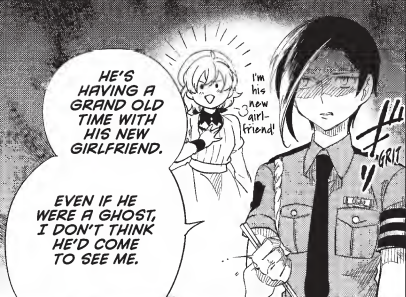
B—
BUT...

...SO,
YUMIHARA...

AND
APOLOGIZE
FOR HIS PAST
BEHAVIOR OR
SOMETHING?

I'M TAKIN'
A GUESS HERE...
BUT DID THIS
"EX-BOYFRIEND"
OF YOURS...

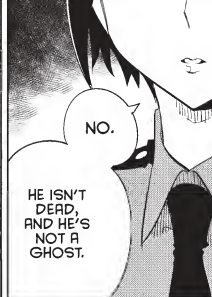
...DIE AND
COME TO
YOU AS A
GHOST?



HE'S
HAVING A
GRAND OLD
TIME WITH
HIS NEW
GIRLFRIEND.

I'm
his
new
girl-
friend!

EVEN IF HE
WERE A GHOST,
I DON'T THINK
HE'D COME
TO SEE ME.



NO.

HE ISN'T
DEAD,
AND HE'S
NOT A
GHOST.



OH...

NO, I'M
SORRY FOR
GETTING SO
EMOTIONAL.



...



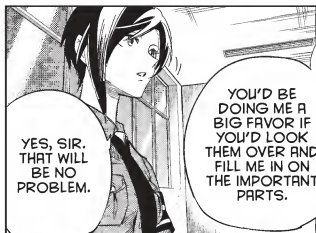
GASP

I'M
SORRY...
I WAS OUT
OF LINE
THERE.



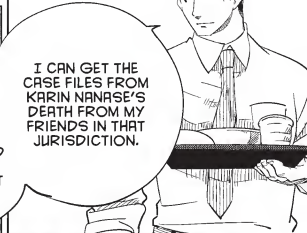
... THAT THE
REASON WE'RE
HAVING THESE
STEEL LADY IN-
CIDENTS IS THAT
KARIN NANASE'S
"ACCIDENT" WAS
ACTUALLY A
MURDER.

WELL,
ANYWAY...
WE'LL
HAVE TO
CONSIDER
THE POS-
SIBILITY...



YES, SIR.
THAT WILL
BE NO
PROBLEM.

YOU'D BE
DOING ME A
BIG FAVOR IF
YOU'D LOOK
THEM OVER AND
FILL ME IN ON
THE IMPORTANT
PARTS.



I CAN GET THE
CASE FILES FROM
KARIN NANASE'S
DEATH FROM MY
FRIENDS IN THAT
JURISDICTION.



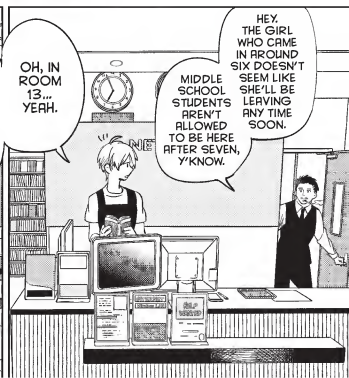
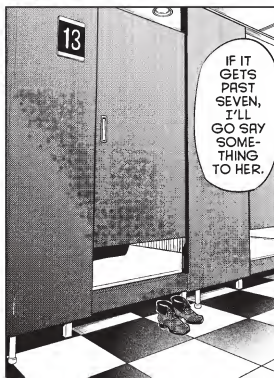
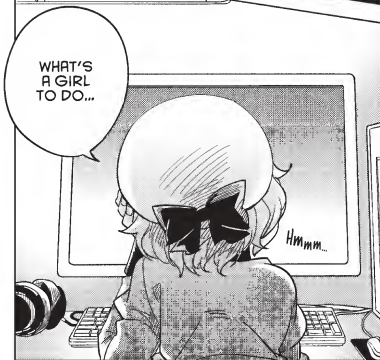
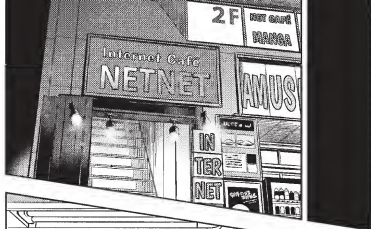
...YUMI-
HARA.

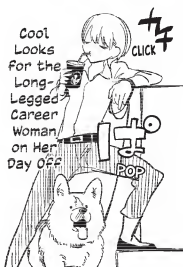


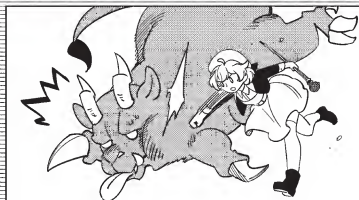
I KNOW
A GOOD
YAKITORI
PLACE.

...YOU
WANNA
GO
SOME-
TIME?







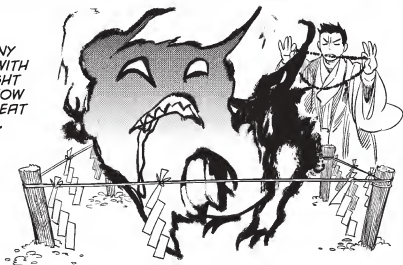


AND IF I CAN'T
REASON WITH
HER, I SHOULD
STILL BE ABLE
TO TAKE HER
DOWN BY
FORCE.

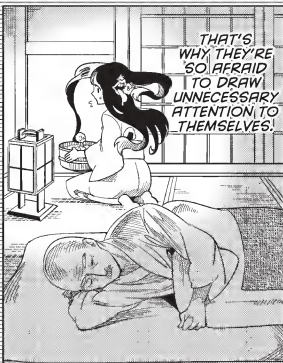


MONSTERS AND YOKAI MAY BE SUPERNATURAL, BUT SINCE ANCIENT TIMES, ALMOST NONE OF THEM HAVE BEEN POWERFUL ENOUGH TO KILL PEOPLE IN WHATEVER GRUESOME WAYS THEY WANTED.

AND ANY HUMAN WITH THE RIGHT KNOW-HOW CAN DEFEAT THEM.



SOMETIMES THEY'LL MAKE THEIR PRESENCE KNOWN BY HURTING OR HELPING PEOPLE, BUT ONLY UNTIL HUMANS GET SERIOUS ABOUT ELIMINATING THEM.



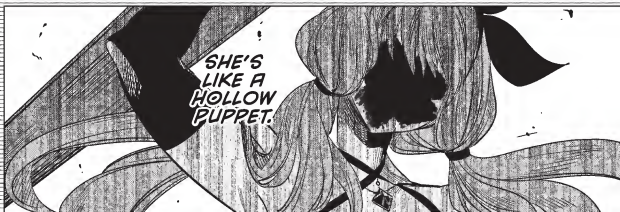
THAT'S WHY THEY'RE SO AFRAID TO DRAW UNNECESSARY ATTENTION TO THEMSELVES.



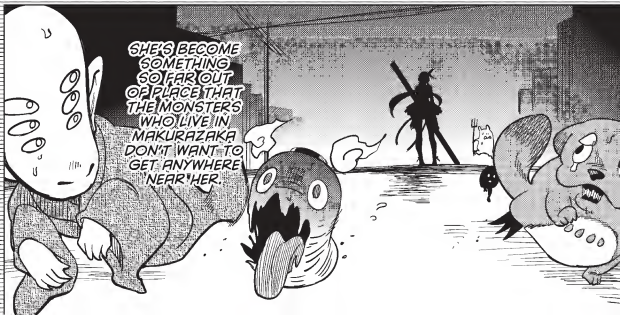
SHE
ISN'T EVEN
EMANATING
ANY OF THE
KINDS OF
INTERNAL
ENERGY THAT
COULD HAVE
CREATED HER
EITHER—NO
GRUDGE,
NO DEEP
ATTACHMENT,
NO MALICE
AT ALL.

SHE'S
SUPPOSED
TO BE A
GHOST, BUT
I COULDN'T
SENSE ANY
WILL OR
THOUGHTS OF
HER OWN, AND
SHE WOULDN'T
REACT TO MY
VOICE, EITHER.

BUT
STEEL LADY
NANASE
WENT FAR
BEYOND
THOSE
GUIDELINES.



SHE'S
LIKE A
HOLLOW
PUPPET.



SHE'S BECOME
SOMETHING
SO FAR OUT
OF PLACE THAT
THE MONSTERS
WHO LIVE IN
MAKURAZAKA
DON'T WANT TO
GET ANYWHERE
NEAR HER.

FOR THAT, I'M GOING TO NEED SOME ACCURATE INFORMATION...

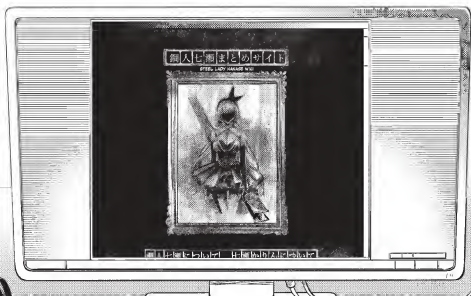
CLICK

4

CLICK

BUT I SHOULD BE PREPARED IF THAT PROVES TO BE THE CASE.

I'LL CHECK TO BE *SURE* I CAN'T TAKE HER DOWN BY FORCE.

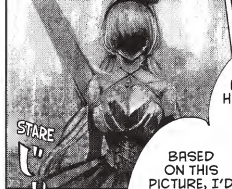


ANYONE COULD PROBABLY DRAW A REASONABLE LIKENESS BASED ON WITNESS TESTIMONIES AND WHAT KARIN NANASE LOOKED LIKE WHEN SHE WAS ALIVE.

BUT WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE TO DRAW SOMETHING THIS SPOT ON?

THIS DRAWING LOOKS JUST LIKE THE STEEL LADY NANASE I SAW LAST NIGHT.

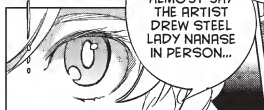
THE LENGTH OF THE GIRDER, THE ANGLE OF HER RIBBON, THE WAY HER THIGHS SHOW UNDER HER SKIRT...



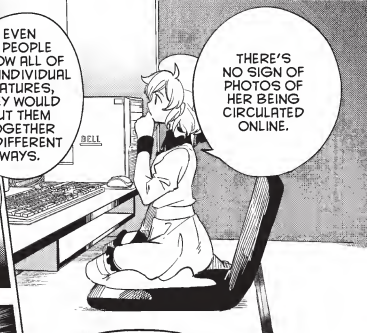
STARE

EVEN
IF PEOPLE
KNOW ALL OF
HER INDIVIDUAL
FEATURES,
THEY WOULD
PUT THEM
TOGETHER
IN DIFFERENT
WAYS.

BASED
ON THIS
PICTURE, I'D
ALMOST SAY
THE ARTIST
DREW STEEL
LADY NANASE
IN PERSON...



GASP



THERE'S
NO SIGN OF
PHOTOS OF
HER BEING
CIRCULATED
ONLINE.

NO.

COULD
IT BE THE
OTHER
WAY
AROUND?



鋼人七瀬まどめ **FACT AND FICTION BLEND TOGETHER ON THE INTERNET**
STEEL LADY NANASE WIKI

I WANT
ACCURATE
DATA ON
KARIN
NANASE'S
DEATH,
FROM A
SOURCE I
CAN TRUST

IN THAT CASE,
DEFEATING
STEEL LADY
NANASE IS
GOING TO BE
TRICKY.

GRAB

FIRST
I'M
GOING TO
NEED
INFORMA-
TION.

...

...I'D
HATE TO
HAVE TO
GO TO
HER FOR
HELP.

Especially
after I
taunted
her on my
way out...

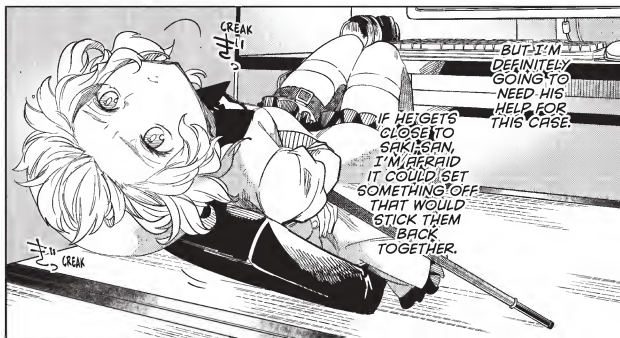
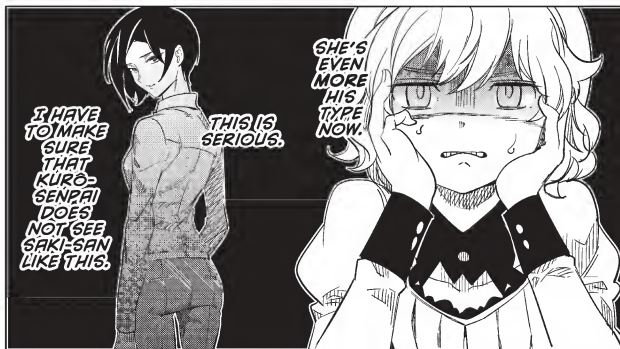
...AND THAT
MEANS THE
POLICE.

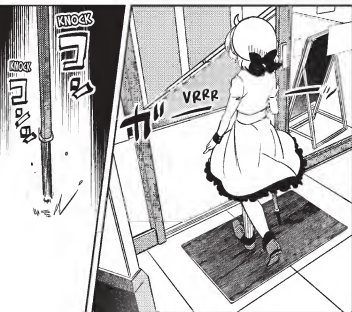
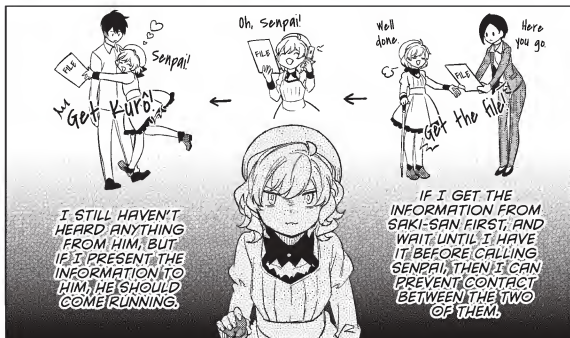
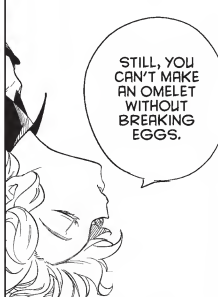
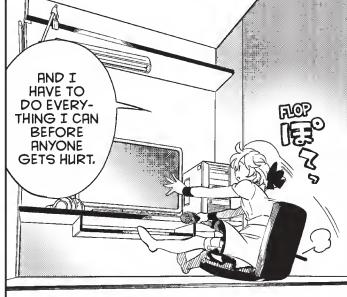
BELL

THERE'S A DETECTIVE
WHO REALIZED THAT
THERE ARE STRANGE
THINGS GOING ON IN
TOWN. HE'S STARTED
INVESTIGATING.

SAKI-SAN!
SHOULDN'T
HAVE TOO
HARD A TIME
GETTING HER
HANDS ON
THE CASE
FILES.

BUT...

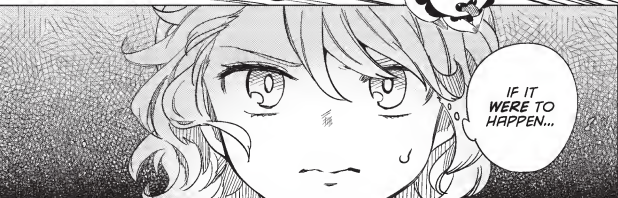
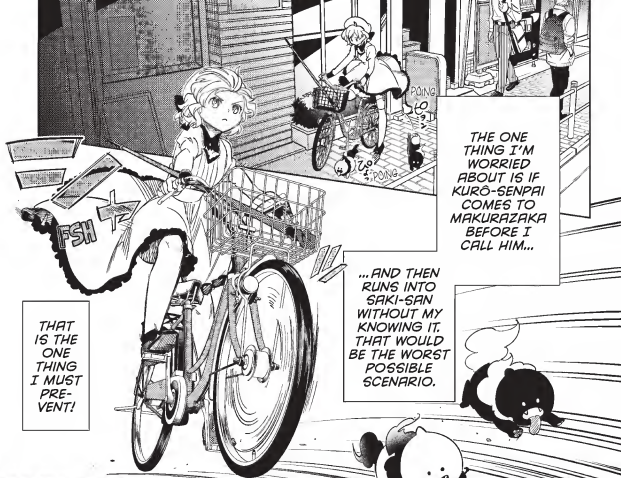


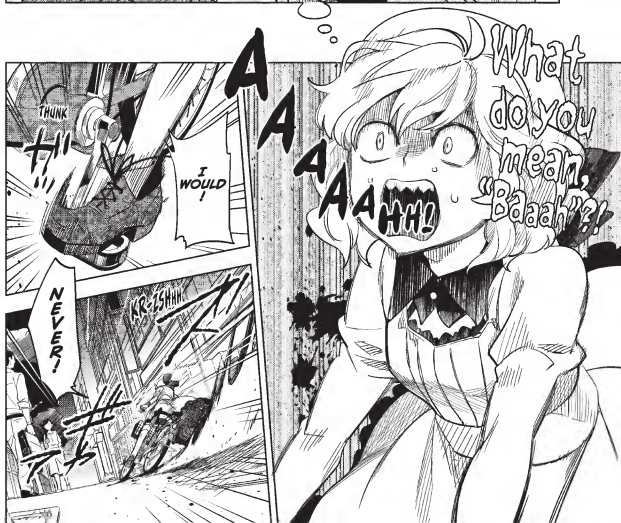


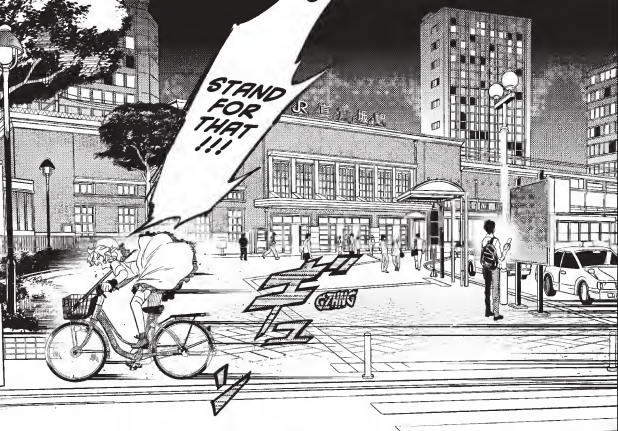


I WANT
YOU TO
CONTACT
SAKI-SAN.

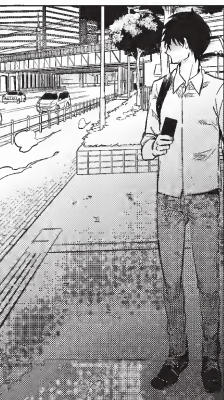
AND I WANT
YOU TO SPREAD
THE WORD AMONG
THE LOCAL YOKAI.
TELL THEM TO LET
ME KNOW IF THEY
SEE STEEL LADY
NANASE.







SIGN: JR MAKURAZAKA STATION



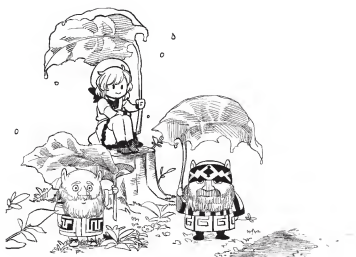


I
GUESS...

...I
IMAGINED
IT?



KORO-POK-GURU

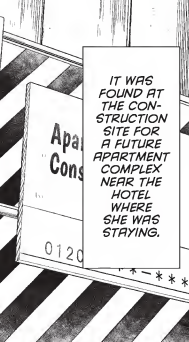


KOTO-POK-GURU



CHAPTER 4: "THE OTHER WIGHT MEAT"





IT WAS
FOUND AT
THE CON-
STRUCTION
SITE FOR
A FUTURE
APARTMENT
COMPLEX
NEAR THE
HOTEL
WHERE
SHE WAS
STAYING.

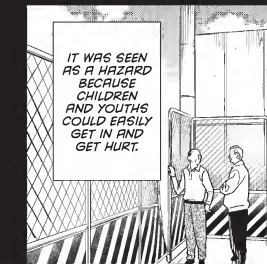


KARIN
NANASE'S
BODY WAS
DISCOVERED
ON SATURDAY,
JANUARY 30.

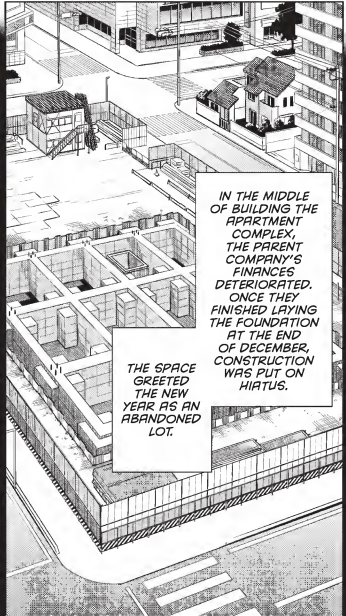


THEY SET
UP WALLS
AND
FENCES
TO KEEP
PEOPLE
FROM
TRESPASS-
ING ON
THE SITE...

...BUT
THEY
WEREN'T
EXACTLY
CAREFUL
ABOUT
IT, AND
THERE
WERE
GAPS.

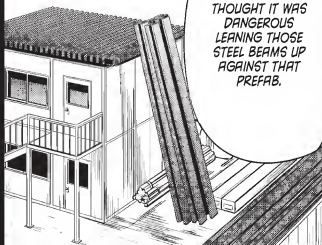


IT WAS SEEN
AS A HAZARD
BECAUSE
CHILDREN
AND YOUTHS
COULD EASILY
GET IN AND
GET HURT.



IN THE MIDDLE
OF BUILDING THE
APARTMENT
COMPLEX,
THE PARENT
COMPANY'S
FINANCES
DETERIORATED.
ONCE THEY
FINISHED LAYING
THE FOUNDATION
AT THE END
OF DECEMBER,
CONSTRUCTION
WAS PUT ON
HIATUS.

THE SPACE
GREETED
THE NEW
YEAR AS AN
ABANDONED
LOT.



I ALWAYS
THOUGHT IT WAS
DANGEROUS
LEANING THOSE
STEEL BEAMS UP
AGAINST THAT
PREFAB.

THE BODY
WAS FOUND
BY A
70-YEAR-
OLD MAN
WHO LIVED
IN A HOUSE
ACROSS THE
STREET.

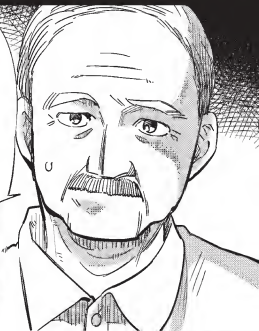
AND THERE
WAS A LOT OF
RAIN THAT DAY.
I FIGURED
MAYBE IT MADE
SOMETHING
COLLAPSE.

IT
SOUNDED
LIKE CON-
STRUCTION
BEAMS
FALLING.

I HEARD
A SOUND
ON THE
NIGHT
BEFORE I
FOUND THE
BODY.



THE
NEXT DAY,
I LOOKED
THROUGH THE
FENCE WHEN I
WAS OUT ON
MY WALK.



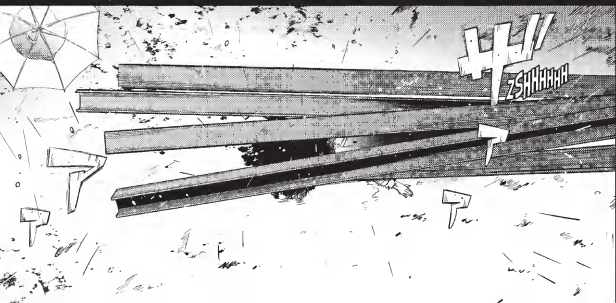


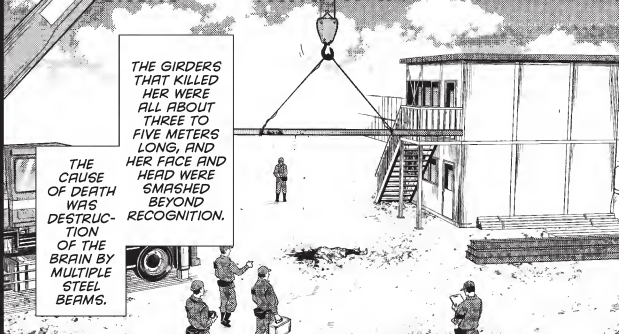
AND SURE
ENOUGH,
THE STEEL
GIRDERS
HAD FALLEN
DOWN.

BUT WHEN
I TOOK
A CLOSER
LOOK...



SO I
PANICKED
AND CALLED
THE POLICE.





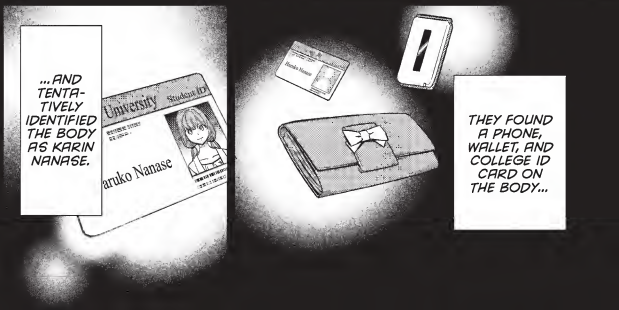
THE GIRDERS THAT KILLED HER WERE ALL ABOUT THREE TO FIVE METERS LONG, AND HER FACE AND HEAD WERE SMASHED BEYOND RECOGNITION.

THE CAUSE OF DEATH WAS DESTRUCTION OF THE BRAIN BY MULTIPLE STEEL BEAMS.

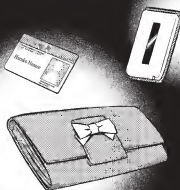


EVERYTHING FROM HER NECK UP WAS DESTROYED, SO THEY COULDN'T ID HER BY HER FACE OR TEETH.

SHE'D TAKEN A BLOW DIRECTLY TO THE FACE. DEATH WAS ALMOST INSTANTANEOUS.



...AND TENTATIVELY IDENTIFIED THE BODY AS KARIN NANASE.



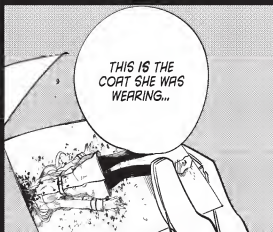
THEY FOUND A PHONE, WALLET, AND COLLEGE ID CARD ON THE BODY...



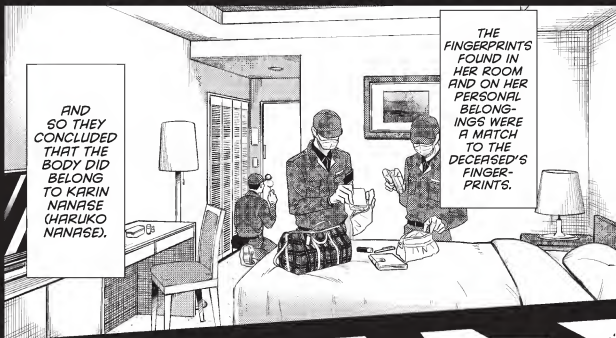
I FIGURED SHE
WAS USING A
FAKE NAME TO
HIDE FROM THE
MEDIA...



THAT'S
WHAT WE'RE
TRYING TO
FIND OUT.
MAYBE
YOU'LL
ALLOW
US TO
INVESTIGATE
HER
ROOM?

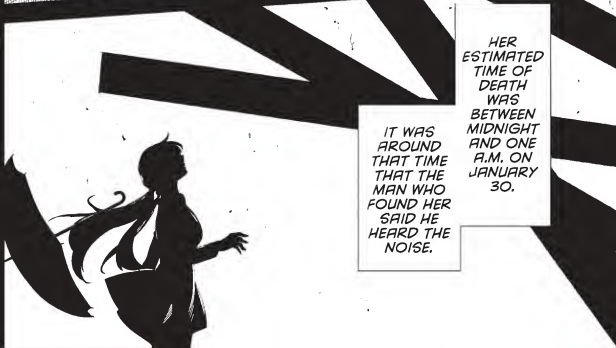


THIS IS THE
COAT SHE WAS
WEARING...



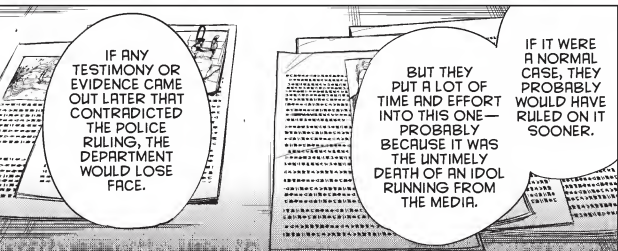
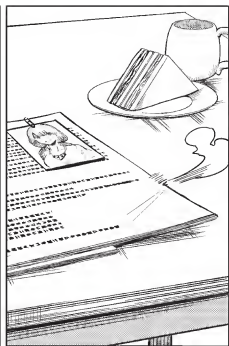
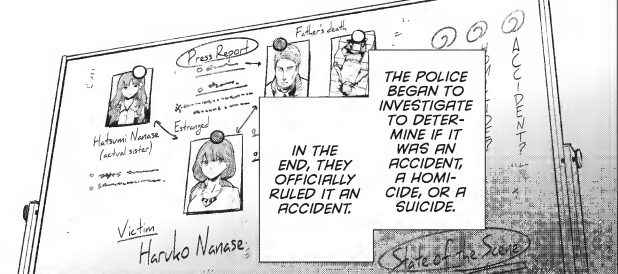
AND
SO THEY
CONCLUDED
THAT THE
BODY DID
BELONG
TO KARIN
NANASE
(HARUKO
NANASE).

THE
FINGERPRINTS
FOUND IN
HER ROOM
AND ON HER
PERSONAL
BELONG-
INGS WERE
A MATCH
TO THE
DECEASED'S
FINGER-
PRINTS.

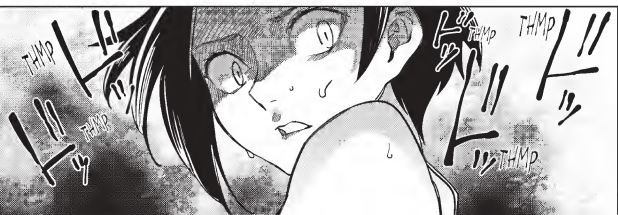
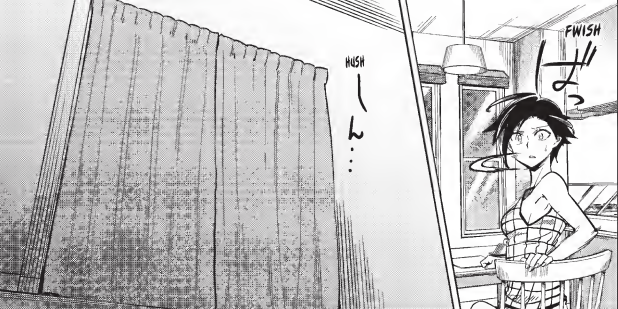


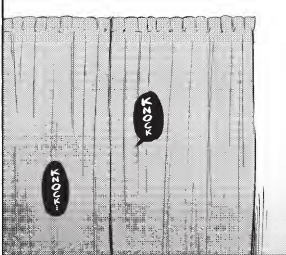
HER
ESTIMATED
TIME OF
DEATH
WAS
BETWEEN
MIDNIGHT
AND ONE
A.M. ON
JANUARY
30.

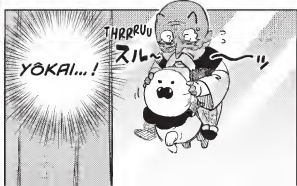
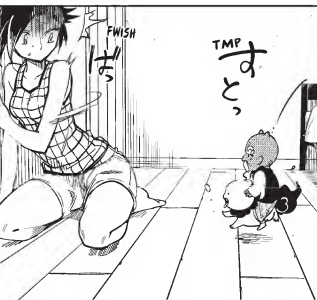
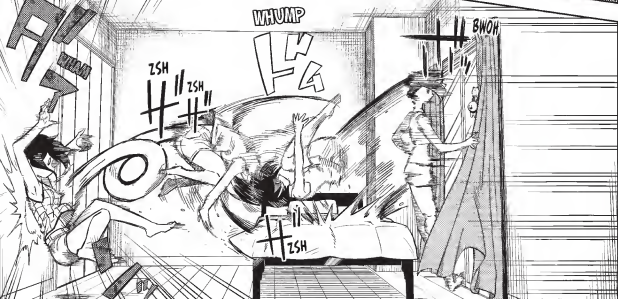
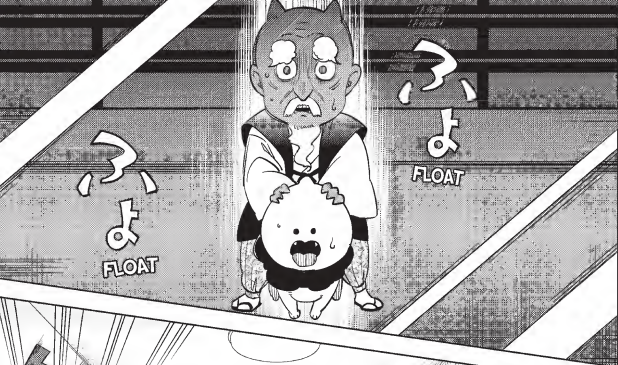
IT WAS
AROUND
THAT TIME
THAT THE
MAN WHO
FOUND HER
SAID HE
HEARD THE
NOISE.













I AM
TERRIBLY
SORRY TO
BOTHER
YOU AT
THIS LATE
HOUR!!!

BWAH



I AM HERE
ON BEHALF
OF OUR
LADY OF
ONE EYE
AND ONE
LEG!!!

GEN'U
FLECT



AAAAHH,
I FIND
IT ONLY
NATURAL
THAT YOU
WOULD BE
SURPRISED
TO SEE
ME!

NNGH!

AAAAHHH



URGH!
AAAAHHH
ALLOW
ME TO
INTRODUCE
MYSELF!
I AM THE
TREE SPIRIT
GEN'ICHIRÔ!

COUGH!

ONE EYE
AND ONE
LEG?

GASP

TREMBLE

3" 3

3" 3
TREMBLE

PLEASE,
I HUMBLY
REQUEST
THAT YOU
REFRAIN
FROM ANY
VIOLENCE
TOWARD
ME!

I AM BUT
A POOR,
FRAGILE
TREE
SPIRIT!

TREMBLE

3" 3

TREMBLE

3" 3

TREMBLE

TREMBLE

3" 3

3" 3

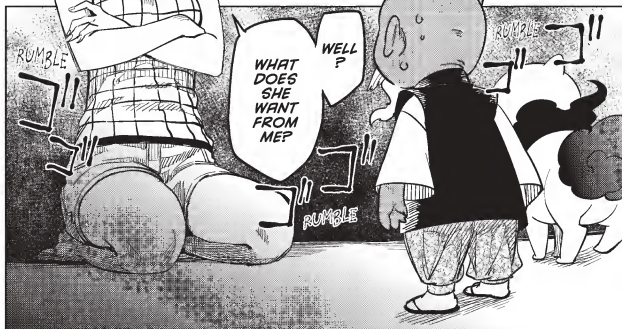
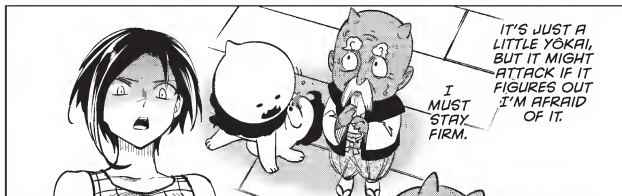
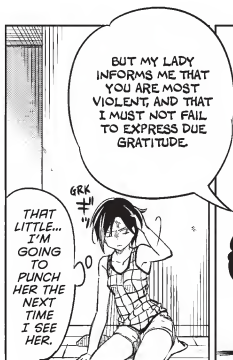
I have
one eye
and one
leg, so I'll
be just
fine!

HER!!

I DON'T
NEED ANY
MONSTERS
TO BE AFRAID
OF ME. AND
LOWER YOUR
VOLUME.

STOP
IT.

IF YOU
WERE TO
TWIST ME
IN YOUR
HONORABLE
HANDS,
YOU
COULD
EASILY...



SHE
WOULD
LIKE TO
SEE YOU
IMMEDI-
ATELY IF
POSSIBLE.

お.
ず
SHY

SHE ASKS
FOR YOUR
ASSISTANCE IN
THE MATTER OF
THE STEEL LADY.

SHOCK
びっくり

EITHER
SHE'S
FLEXIBLE,
OR SHE'S
A REAL
SLACKER.

AFTER
WHAT SHE
TOLD ME
YESTER-
DAY?

STEEL
LADY
NANASE IS
NOT A JOB
FOR THE
POLICE.



MARCH

MARCH

AND
THAT'S
SOME
PRETTY
VEHEMENT
HARRASS-
MENT.

HOW
MANY
SIB-
LINGS
DO
YOU
HAVE?

WILL
TAKE
TURNS
VISITING
YOU TO
CONTINUE
OUR PLEA.

... THEN
EVERY
NIGHT FROM
TODAY ON,
MY FELLOW
TREE SPIRITS,
GENJIRO,
GENZABURO,
GENSHIRO,
ET AL.,

SHOULD
YOU
DECLINE
TO
ASSIST
US...

OR
MAYBE IT
MEANS THE
STEEL LADY
NANASE
PROBLEM IS
GETTING
WORSE?

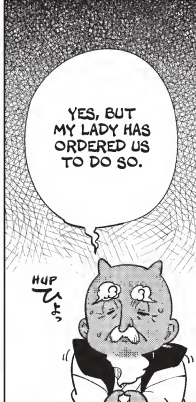
HHMM...



FINE,
I CAN
SEE HER.
WHERE?

YUP.
I'M
GONNA
HIT HER.
ABOUT
THREE
TIMES.

GRIP



YES, BUT
MY LADY HAS
ORDERED US
TO DO SO.

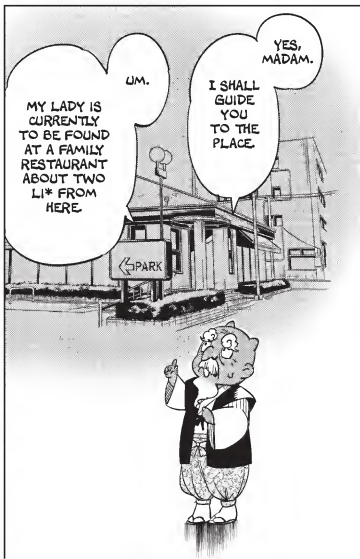
HUP
~

*ABOUT 1 KILOMETER OR 0.6 MILES



YOU
HAVE NOT
ONE THING
TO WORRY
ABOUT
ON THAT
ACCOUNT.

SHE
INFORMED ME
THAT SHE WILL
PERSONALLY
TAKE
RESPONSIBILITY
FOR ANY
CHARGES
INCURRED FOR
FOOD OR DRINK
CONSUMED
THERE.

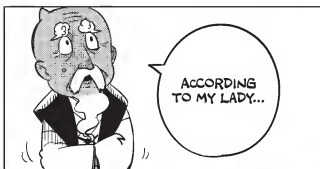
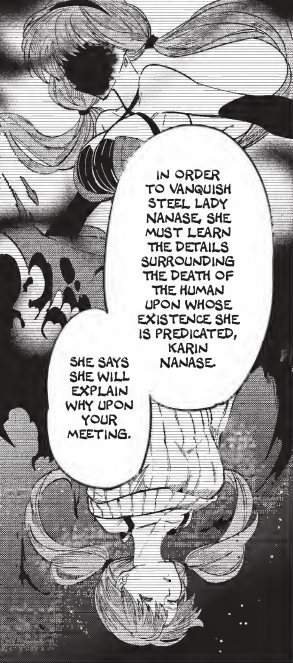


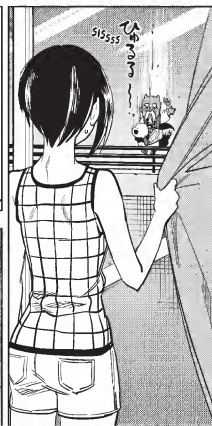
UM.

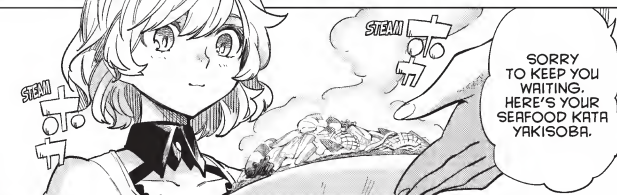
MY LADY IS
CURRENTLY
TO BE FOUND
AT A FAMILY
RESTAURANT
ABOUT TWO
LI* FROM
HERE.

YES,
MADAM.

I SHALL
GUIDE
YOU
TO THE
PLACE.









STEEL LADY
NANASE HAS
APPEARED.



THAT'S
NOT FAR
FROM
HERE.

GULP

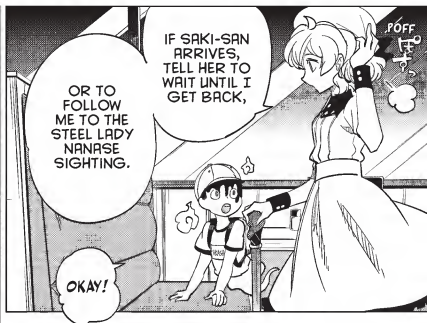


THE BUS
STOP IN
MAKURAZAKA
3-CHÔME.

WHERE?



WHAT BAD
TIMING.
I JUST
SUMMONED
SAKI-SAN
TO COME
SEE ME.



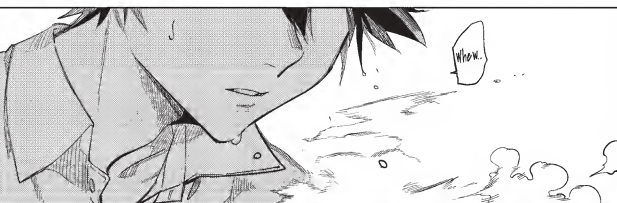
OR TO
FOLLOW
ME TO THE
STEEL LADY
NANASE
SIGHTING.

IF SAKI-SAN
ARRIVES,
TELL HER TO
WAIT UNTIL I
GET BACK,

OKAY!









GWIRL
くろん

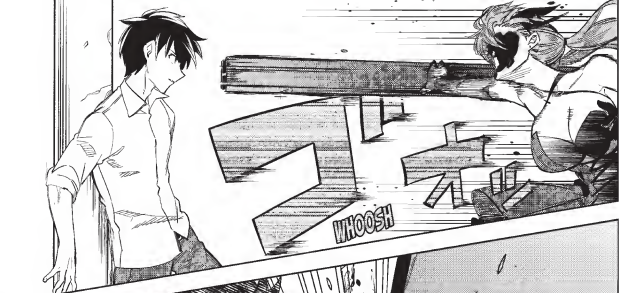
KURÔ-
SENPAI?!



しゅ
FSH

ぱん
PAT

PAT
ぱん





THAT PERSON
CLEARLY HAS
NO EXPERIENCE
TO SPEAK OF
IN SPORTS OR
MARTIAL ARTS, AND
YET HE'S SO
CALM FACING OFF
AGAINST THAT
MONSTER.

HIS
FOOT-
WORK IS
ATRO-
CIOUS.



IT HAS TO
BE KURŌ-
SENPAI.



EX-
CUSE
ME!

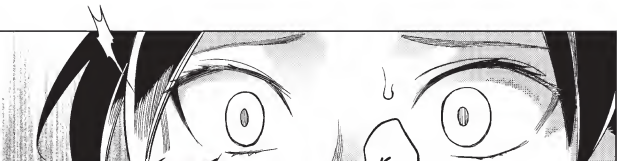


I HAVE AN
IDEA WHY
SENPAI WOULD
WANT TO BE
HERE, AND IT
DID OCCUR
TO ME THAT
THIS MIGHT
HAPPEN.

BUT WHY
DID IT HAVE
TO HAPPEN
NOW?







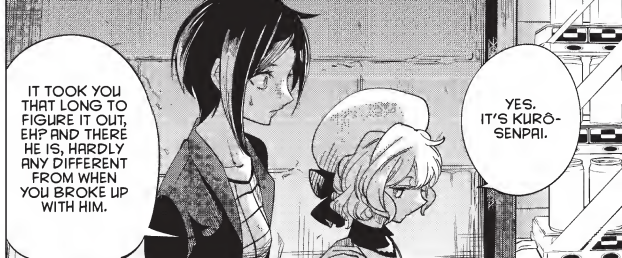
K...



KURŌ-
KUN
...?

ブ
オ
オ WHOOOOOSH

オ
オ



IT TOOK YOU
THAT LONG TO
FIGURE IT OUT,
EHP? AND THERE
HE IS, HARDLY
ANY DIFFERENT
FROM WHEN
YOU BROKE UP
WITH HIM.

YES.
IT'S KURŌ-
SENPAI.



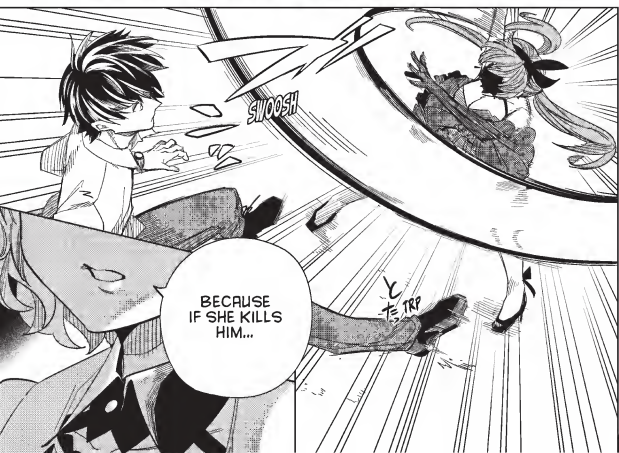
WELL...
KURŌ-
KUN WAS
NEVER
THAT
COMBAT-
IVE.

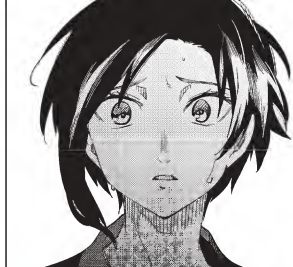


IF WE GET
TOO CLOSE,
WE MIGHT
GET CAUGHT
IN THE
CROSSFIRE.

FOR NOW,
WE JUST
WATCH.







...KURŌ-
SENPAI WILL
USE THE
IMMORTALITY
HE GAINED
FROM EATING
MERMAID FLESH
TO STAND
RIGHT BACK
UP AGAIN.

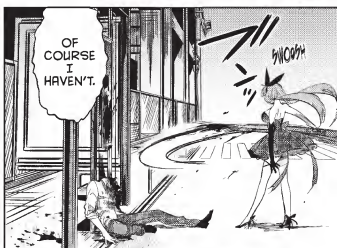
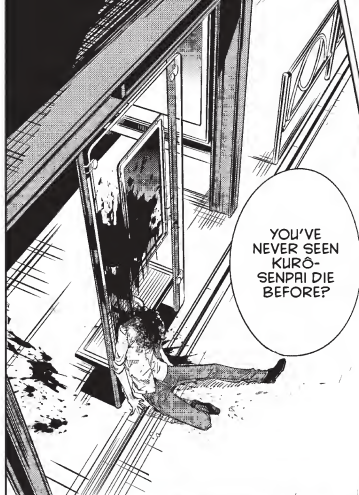


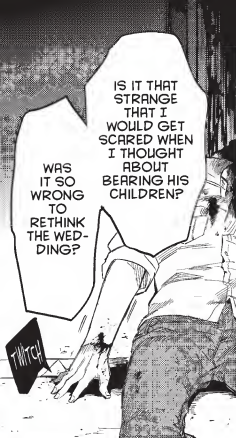




SMASH

THUD





WAS
IT SO
WRONG
TO
RETHINK
THE WED-
DING?

IS IT THAT
STRANGE
THAT I
WOULD GET
SCARED WHEN
I THOUGHT
ABOUT
BEARING HIS
CHILDREN?



AND SHE DIDN'T
JUST TAKE THAT TO
MEAN HE'S A NICE,
STURDY BOYFRIEND?
A WONDERFUL
HUSBAND THAT WILL
NEVER MAKE HER
WORRY ABOUT HIM
GETTING SICK
OR INJURED?

WELL, FROM
THE LOOK OF
IT, ACCEPTING
HIM WAS
BEYOND HER.



WELL, OF
COURSE. HE'S
IMMORTAL—
NONE OF THAT
WOULD
BOTHER HIM.



HAVE YOU
SEEN THE
SAKURAGAWA
FAMILY TREE?

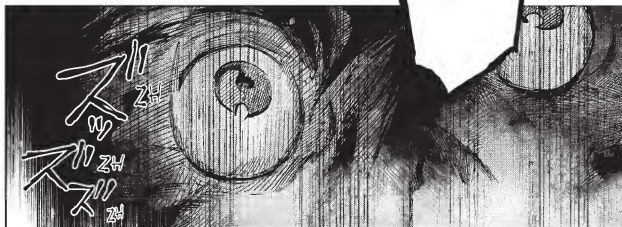


KURŌ-
KUN...IS
THE ONLY
ONE WHO'S
MANAGED TO
STAY
ALIVE.

HE HAS
DOZENS OF
RELATIVES
AND EXTENDED
FAMILY
MEMBERS, BUT
ALMOST ALL OF
THEM HAVE DIED
FROM DISEASES
OR OTHER
SUSPICIOUS
CAUSES.



WHAT
DID HIS
FAMILY
DO?! WHAT
HAVE THEY
CREATED?!





NO,
IT'S NOT
STRANGE,
BUT...

OH.



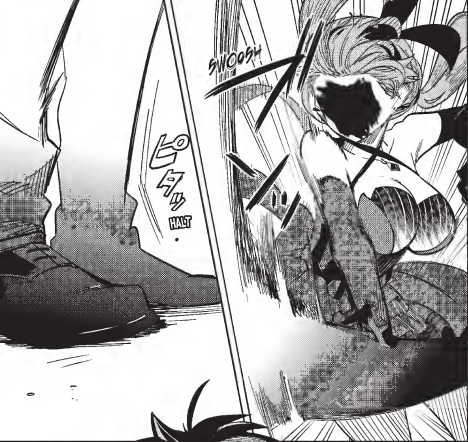
IS IT
STRANGE...
TO BE
AFRAID OF
THAT?



KURŌ-
SENPAI HAS
RECOVERED.











THE WAY
THEY MOVED
JUST NOW...
IT'S LIKE THEY
WERE BOTH
FOLLOWING
A SCRIPT.

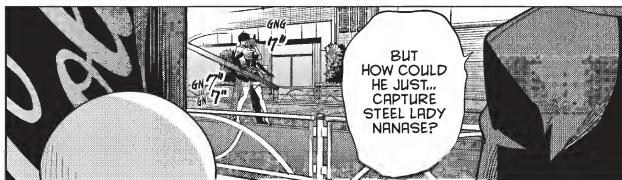
LIKE THAT
WAS HOW
IT WAS
SUPPOSED
TO HAPPEN.

STAGGER



HE...
DODGED?

NO, THE
STEEL BEAM
STOPPED...
RIGHT
BEFORE IT
HIT HIM...



BUT
HOW COULD
HE JUST...
CAPTURE
STEEL LADY
NANASE?



ALL HE
NEEDED
WAS THE
COURAGE TO
DODGE THE
FIRST SWING
AND CLOSE
IN ON HER.

SO THE
PROBABIL-
ITY OF HER
CAPTURE
WAS
EXTREMELY
HIGH.

BECAUSE
STEEL LADY
NANASE WAS
SWINGING
THAT STEEL
GIRDER
AROUND
WITHOUT
THINKING.



THEN IT'S
NOT DIFFICULT
FOR KURŌ-
SENPAI TO SET
THAT FUTURE IN
STONE BEFORE
IT HAPPENS.

AND IF
IT'S A LIKELY
ENOUGH
SCENARIO,



GIVEN
BY THE
OTHER
MEAT
HE ATE
ALONG
WITH THE
MER-
MAID'S.

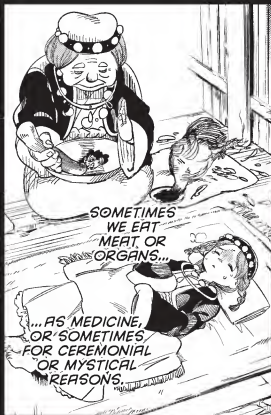
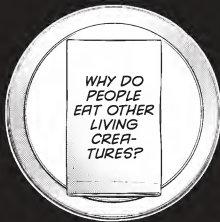
THAT,
TOO, IS
KURŌ-
SENPAI'S
POWER,

GRNG

!!
...

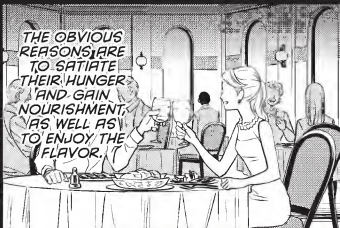


THE POWER OF
THE PROPHET
BEAST, KUDAN—
THE ABILITY TO
DETERMINE THE
FUTURE.

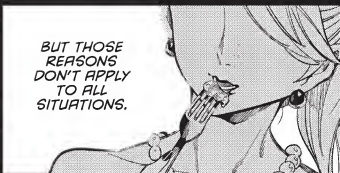


SOMETIMES
WE EAT
MEAT, OR
ORGANS...

...AS MEDICINE,
OR SOMETIMES
FOR CEREMONIAL
OR MYSTICAL
REASONS.



THE OBVIOUS
REASONS ARE
TO SATIATE
THEIR HUNGER
AND GAIN
NOURISHMENT,
AS WELL AS
TO ENJOY THE
FLAVOR.



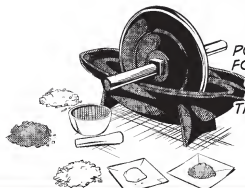
BUT THOSE
REASONS
DON'T APPLY
TO ALL
SITUATIONS.



EVEN IF THE
ADVANCEMENTS
OF SCIENCE AND
MEDICINE HAVE
BROUGHT THEIR
EFFICACY INTO
QUESTION...

...THESE
PRACTICES
CONTINUE.

SUCH
THINGS CAN
BE READILY
PURCHASED,
EITHER
WHOLE
OR IN
POWDERED
FORM, AND
PEOPLE
BELIEVE
THAT THEY
WORK.



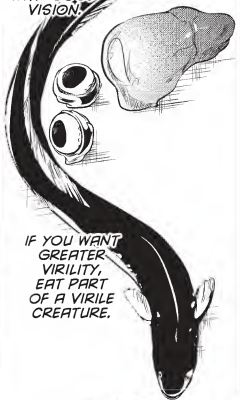
THERE ARE
EVEN RUMORS
ABOUT BLOOD
TRANSFUSIONS
TRANSMITTING THE
PERSONALITY AND
TASTES OF THE
DONOR TO THE
RECIPIENT...

... AND ABOUT
ORGAN TRANSPLANT
PATIENTS WHO TAKE
ON THE DISPOSITION
AND MEMORIES OF
THE DONOR.

...IS CLOSELY
TIED TO THE
NOTION OF
TAKING ON
THAT PERSON'S
ABILITIES AND
DISPOSITION.

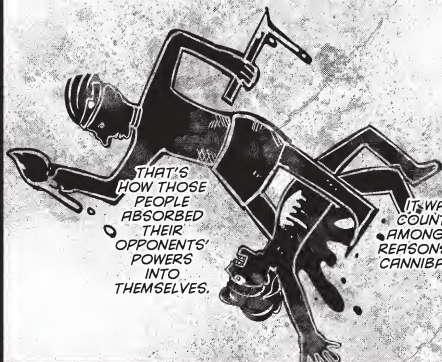
IF YOUR
LIVER IS
FAILING,
EAT THE
LIVER OF A
CREATURE
WITH A
STRONG
ONE.

IF YOUR
EYES ARE
FAILING,
EAT THE
EYES OF A
CREATURE
WITH GOOD
VISION.



IF YOU WANT
GREATER
VIRILITY,
EAT PART
OF A VIRILE
CREATURE.

THE ACT
OF TAKING A
PHYSICAL PART
OF SOMEONE
INTO ONE'S
SELF...



THAT'S
HOW THOSE
PEOPLE
ABSORBED
THEIR
OPPONENTS'
POWERS
INTO
THEMSELVES.

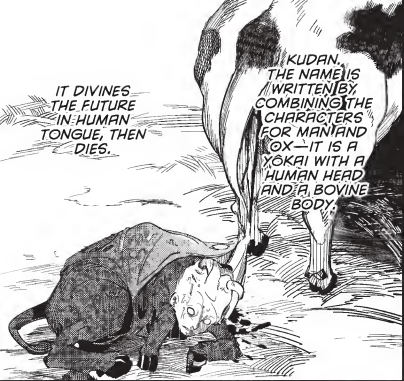
IT WAS
COUNTED
AMONG THE
REASONS FOR
CANNIBALISM.

IN ANCIENT
TIMES,
THERE WERE
CEREMONIES
AND
PROCEDURES
FOR EATING
THE HEART
OF AN ENEMY
GENERAL OR
LEADER AFTER
DEFEATING
THEM IN
BATTLE.



AND SO,
SOME TEN ODD
GENERATIONS
AGO, KURŌ
SAKURAGAWA'S
FAMILY HAD
AN IDEA.



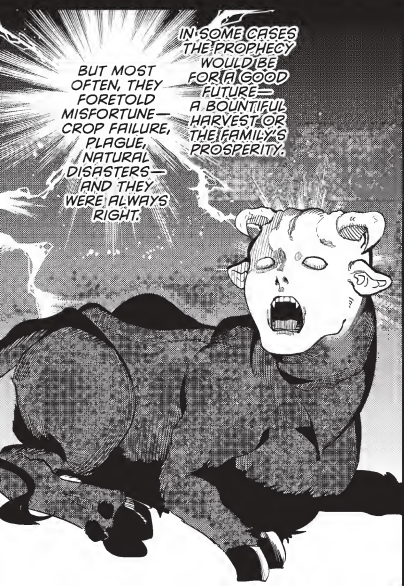


IT DIVINES
THE FUTURE
IN HUMAN
TONGUE, THEN
DIES.

KUDAN,
THE NAME IS
WRITTEN BY
COMBINING THE
CHARACTERS
FOR MAN AND
OX—IT IS A
YOKAI WITH A
HUMAN HEAD
AND A BOVINE
BODY.



IF ONE WERE
TO EAT THE FLESH
OF THE KUDAN,
WOULDN'T ONE GAIN
ITS PROPHETIC
POWERS?



BUT MOST
OFTEN, THEY
FORETOLD
MISFORTUNE—
CROP FAILURE,
PLAGUE,
NATURAL
DISASTERS—
AND THEY
WERE ALWAYS
RIGHT.

IN SOME CASES
THE PROPHECY
WOULD BE
FOR A GOOD
FUTURE—
A BOUNTIFUL
HARVEST OR
THE FAMILY'S
PROSPERITY.

LEGEND HAS IT,
A KUDAN BORN
DURING THE
SECOND WORLD
WAR DIVINED THAT
JAPAN WOULD BE
DEFEATED.

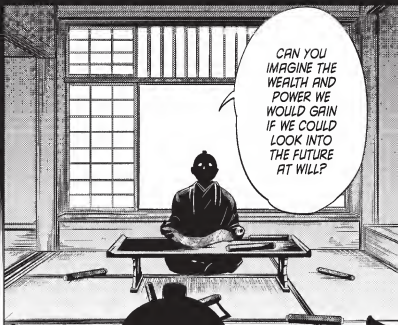


OH, I
WANT IT.
I MUST
HAVE
IT!

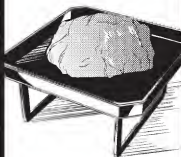


SCRUNCH

CAN YOU
IMAGINE THE
WEALTH AND
POWER WE
WOULD GAIN
IF WE COULD
LOOK INTO
THE FUTURE
AT WILL?



SO THE MAN
PROCURED
SOME KUDAN
MEAT AND
FED IT TO
SEVERAL OF HIS
HOUSEHOLD.



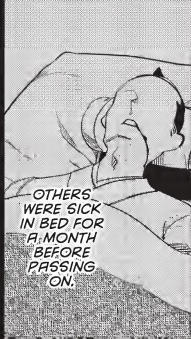
THAT
SUPERHUMAN
ABILITY—THAT
GODLIKE
POWER.



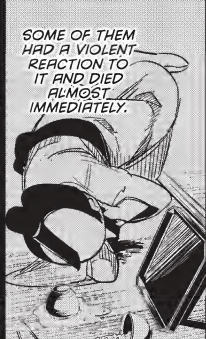
STILL OTHERS
DIED AFTER
DIVINING THE
FUTURE.



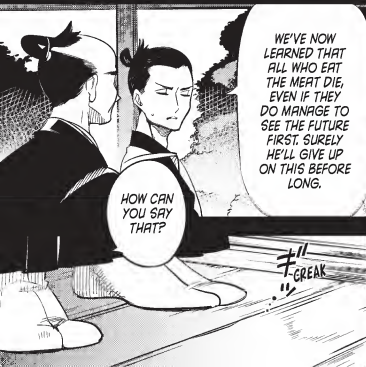
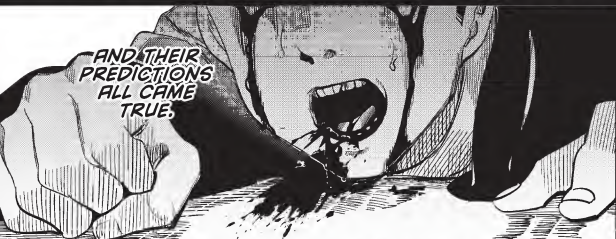
OTHERS
WERE SICK
IN BED FOR
A MONTH
BEFORE
PASSING
ON.



SOME OF THEM
HAD A VIOLENT
REACTION TO
IT AND DIED
ALMOST
IMMEDIATELY.



AND THEIR
PREDICTIONS
ALL CAME
TRUE.



HOW CAN
YOU SAY
THAT?

WE'VE NOW
LEARNED THAT
ALL WHO EAT
THE MEAT DIE,
EVEN IF THEY
DO MANAGE TO
SEE THE FUTURE
FIRST. SURELY
HE'LL GIVE UP
ON THIS BEFORE
LONG.

!!
CREAK
!!



I FEEL
LIKE I'M
LOSING
MY MIND.
I DON'T
SUPPOSE
HE'LL
STOP THIS
ANYTIME
SOON?

AND SO,
WHENEVER
HE HEARD
THAT A
KUDAN HAD
APPEARED,
HE WOULD
SEND
SOMEONE
TO THE
SPOT.



WE MUST
MAKE IT
OUR OWN
BEFORE
ANYONE
ELSE
DISCOVERS
IT!



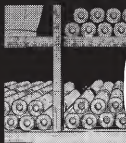
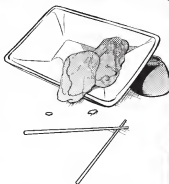
WHAT WE'VE
LEARNED, DESPITE
THE SACRIFICES, IS
THAT EATING THIS
MEAT CAN BESTOW
THE POWER OF
PROPHECY.



MY—

MY
LORD...

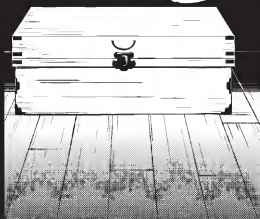
HE WOULD BUY
THE CORPSE
AND FEED IT TO
THE MEMBERS
OF THE
SAKURAGAWA
FAMILY, AGAIN
—AND, AGAIN.



COME TO THINK
OF IT, THE KUDAN
THEMSELVES DIE
SHORTLY AFTER
VOICING THEIR
PREDICTIONS.

BUT EVEN THE
SUBJECTS WHO
DO SEE VISIONS
OF THE FUTURE
DIE IMMEDIATELY
AFTER GIVING
THEIR
PROPHECIES.

MY
EXPERIMENTS
HAVE
GENERALLY
BEEN SUC-
CESSFUL.





DOES LOOKING
INTO THE FUTURE
CONSUME SO
MUCH ENERGY
THAT IT KILLS
THE PROPHET?



OR...

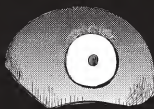
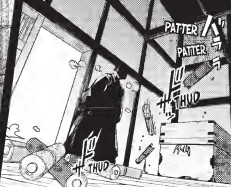
...ARE THEY
GIVEN THE
RIGHT TO SEE
THE FUTURE IN
EXCHANGE FOR
THEIR LIVES?



IT'S
RIGHT IN
FRONT OF
ME!

I'M SO
CLOSE!

RAAGH!





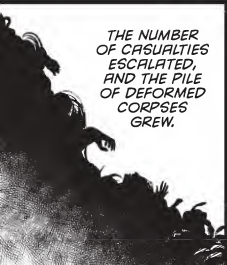
ONCE
REVIVED,
HE CAN
DIVINE
AGAIN!

WHAT A
BRILLIANT
IDEA!

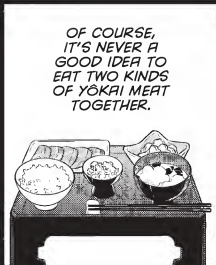


WE'LL BE
ABLE TO SEE
THE FUTURE
AT WILL
FOR ALL
ETERNITY!

HA
HA
HA!



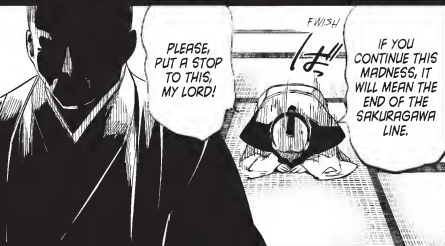
THE NUMBER
OF CASUALTIES
ESCALATED,
AND THE PILE
OF DEFORMED
CORPSES
GREW.



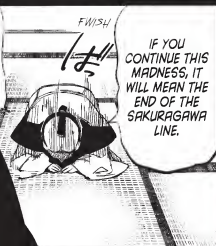
OF COURSE,
IT'S NEVER A
GOOD IDEA TO
EAT TWO KINDS
OF YOKAI MEAT
TOGETHER.



THUS HE
BEGAN HIS
EXPERIMENTS
IN SERVING
MERMAID
FLESH
ALONG WITH
THE KUDAN
MEAT.



PLEASE,
PUT A STOP
TO THIS,
MY LORD!



IF YOU
CONTINUE THIS
MADNESS, IT
WILL MEAN THE
END OF THE
SAKURAGAWA
LINE.

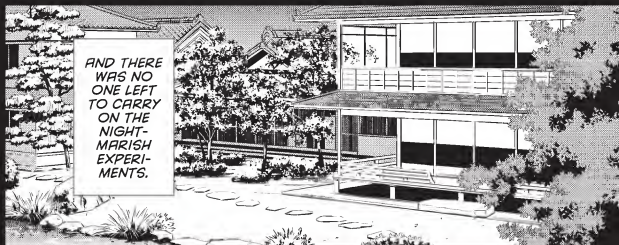




EVENTUALLY,
THE
SAKURA-
GAWA
FAMILY'S
NUMBERS
DECLINED
UNTIL, EVEN
COUNTING
DISTANT
RELATIVES,
ONLY A FEW
REMAINED.

BUT TIME
WENT ON,
AND THE
EXPERI-
MENTS
NEVER
BORE
FRUIT.

THEN WE
JUST NEED TO
BEAR MORE
CHILDREN. OR
ADOPT—I
DON'T CARE.



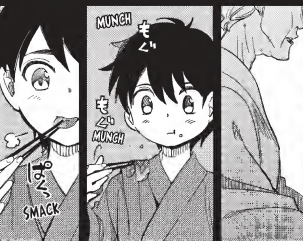
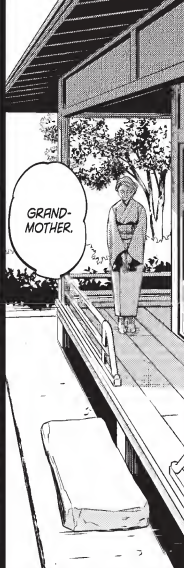
AND THERE
WAS NO
ONE LEFT
TO CARRY
ON THE
NIGHT-
MARISH
EXPERI-
MENTS.



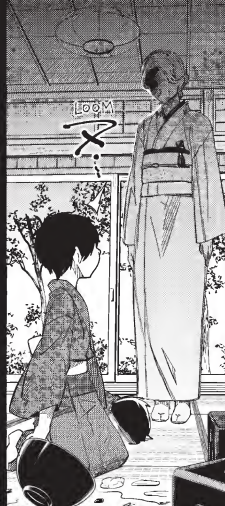
KURŌ.

GLUB
はー

はー
GLUB

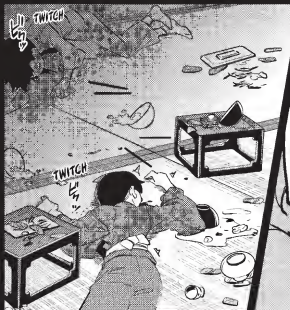








IT'S
HAPPENED.
OUR
DREAM
HAS
COME
TRUE.



IMMORTALITY.
PROPHECY.
FINALLY,
THEY ARE
OURS!

KURÔ'S
GRAND-
MOTHER
HAD
KEPT THE
DREAM
ALIVE.

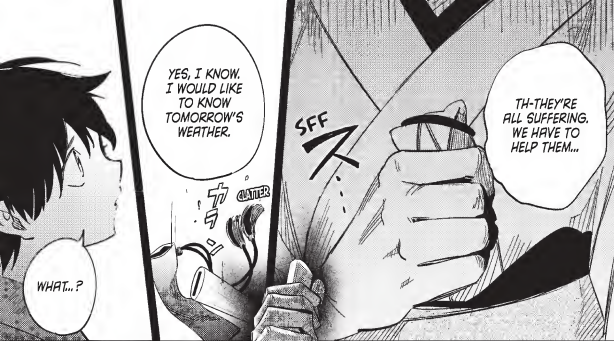


GRAND-
MOTHER...

JUMP
は。

SHE HAD
SECRETLY
BEEN
COLLECTING
KUDAN AND
MERMAID
MEAT.





YES, I KNOW.
I WOULD LIKE
TO KNOW
TOMORROW'S
WEATHER.

TH-THEY'RE
ALL SUFFERING.
WE HAVE TO
HELP THEM...

WHAT...?



DIE AND
TAKE A LOOK
FOR ME.

I KNOW
YOU CAN SEE
IT, KURŌ.



AT THE
FUTURE.



TO SEE
IF HE WAS
IMMORTAL,
IF HE COULD
SEE THE
FUTURE...

SHOONK

KURŌ'S
GRANDMOTHER
WAS'MAD WITH
JOY AFTER HE ATE
THE KUDAN AND
MERMAID FLESH.
HE TOLD ME SHE
TRIED ALL KINDS
OF EXPERIMENTS
ON HIM.

...SHE WOULD
CUT PIECES
OFF OF HIM,
AND INFLICT
FATAL
INJURIES,
AGAIN AND
AGAIN.



KURŌ.

CLUNK

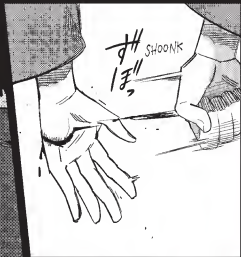
APPARENTLY
AS A RESULT,
HE LOST
ALMOST ALL
SENSE OF
PAIN.

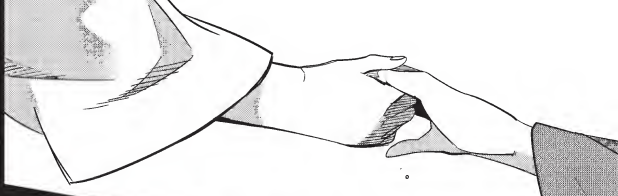




LET'S GO
LOOK AT
THEM.

THERE'S
A LOT OF
FIREFLIES BY
THE RIVER
OUT BACK.





SHAKE
SHAKE

NO.



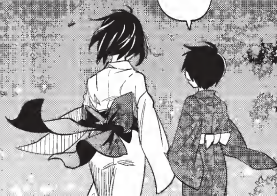
IS SOME-
THING
WRONG?

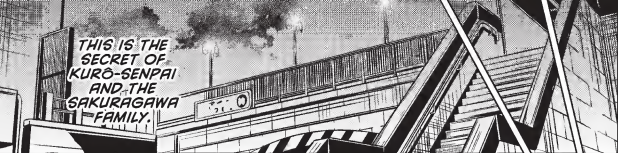
BUT THERE
WAS ONE
THING THEY
MISCALCU-
LATED—THEY
COULDN'T
USE THE
POWER AS
FREELY AS
THEY HAD
THOUGHT.

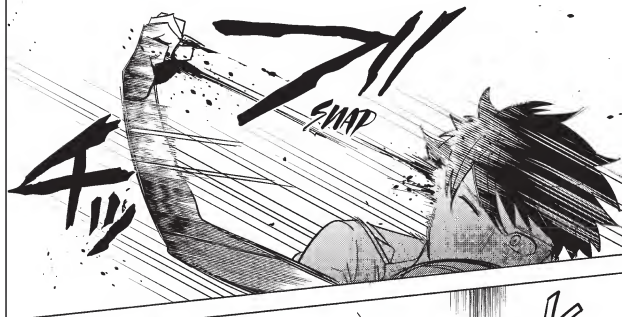
THE WISH OF
GENERATIONS
OF SAKURA-
GAWAS HAD
FINALLY BEEN
GRANTED.

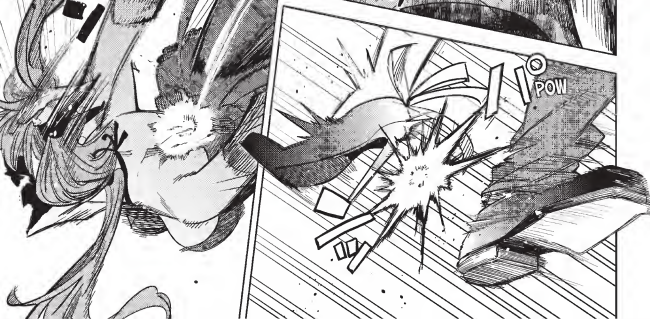
IT'S
NOTHING,

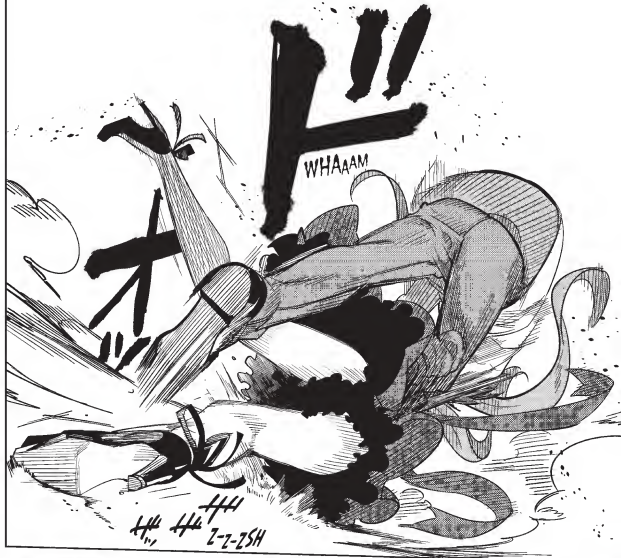
NE-SAN.











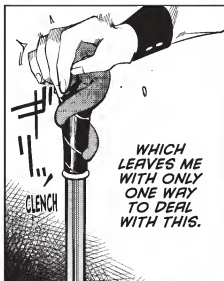




EVEN WHEN NOTHING COULD MAKE HIM MORE DEPENDABLE?







WHICH
LEAVES ME
WITH ONLY
ONE WAY
TO DEAL
WITH THIS.



...I
KNEW
IT. NO
DICE.

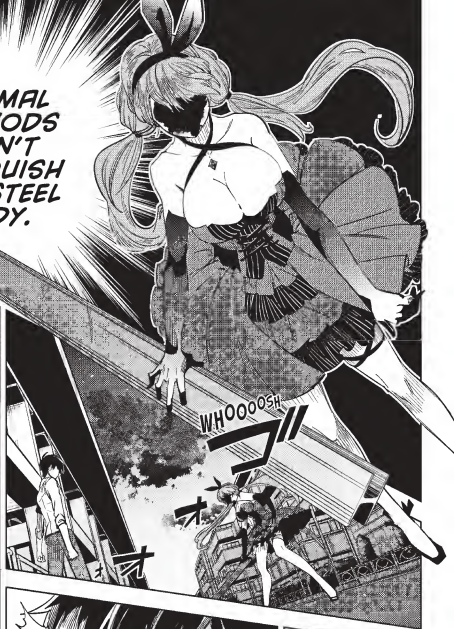


YOU
WOULDN'T
COME OUT
UNSCATHED—
THAT'S JUST
HOW THINGS
WORK,
NORMALLY.

SHE MAY BE
A GHOST, BUT
IT'S NOT EASY
TO MAINTAIN
YOURSELF
WHEN AN
OUTSIDE
FORCE COMES
ALONG AND
MANGLES YOU
LIKE THAT.

**NORMAL
METHODS
WON'T
VANQUISH
THE STEEL
LADY.**

WE'LL NEED
TO USE A
DIFFERENT
STRATEGY
TO DEFEAT
STEEL LADY
NANASE.

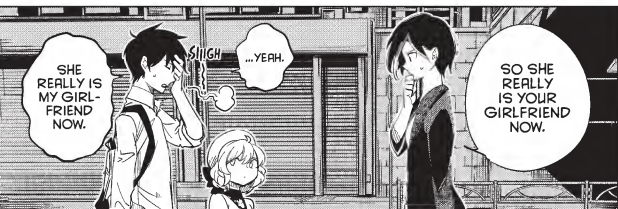


THAT
WILL DO,
KURŌ-
SENPAI.

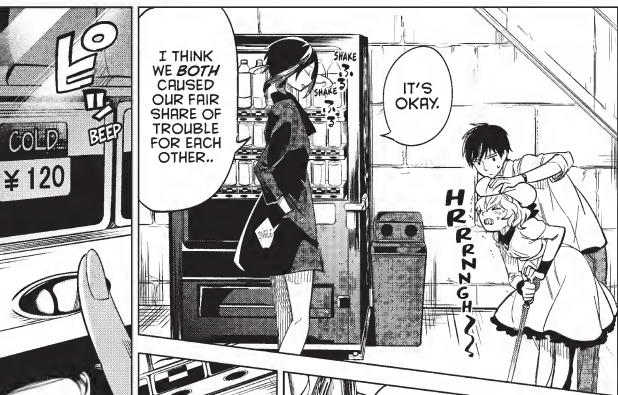














KURŌ-
KUN.

LET'S
START THIS
AGAIN. IT'S
GOOD TO
SEE YOU.



...SAKI-
SAN.



IT'S
GOOD
TO SEE
YOU
TOO.

YES.







IN/SPECTRE

completely out of energy, so the whole endeavor ended with nothing but a title.

And yet, here in the manga, it has a story and characters that fit the title, and there's even some action! I was in total awe, like the shoemaker who woke up to find all the shoes that were made while he slept. Fairy tale events do happen in real life. There's hope for the real world after all.

On the other hand, Chashiba Katase-sensei had to create a comic of this fictional drama with that title and no other clues whatsoever, and may have been grumbling and snarling, "If this is reality, then it's a cruel and unreasonable world that I live in." Um, I'm really sorry.

Nevertheless, this title, "*Youth! The Girl Who Breathes Fire!*," is something that I was very particular about when I put it in my book. For instance, for the entire rest of the book, I managed to maintain my personal aesthetic of using no exclamation points, but in this case, I thought, "It won't feel right if I take the exclamation point out, and there's no better title than this one," so in the end, I did not remove the exclamation points or change the title. So believe it or not, I didn't settle on this title just because I needed something and it didn't really matter. But it is a pretty insignificant thing to be particular about.

As for the manga itself, it continues to be a self-proclaimed mystery manga that is not very mystery-like, but I think it may just be possible that all the groundwork has been laid for it to start being a mystery series.

With that in mind, I hope you'll read the next volume.

Kyo Shirodaira

I am Kyo Shirodaira, the original author who, as with volume one, didn't really have any hand in the story's manga version. This is volume two.

I think the highlights of this volume are the scenes from Karin Nanase's drama, "*Youth! The Girl Who Breathes Fire!*" that showed up in chapter three.

They're important scenes that are necessary to give the readers a clear impression of what the idol Karin Nanase was like in life, but only the title of the show and the name of the song were mentioned in the original novel. The book didn't have any other details, let alone an entire scene. And when the story became a manga, I didn't give the artist any background details or anything, so the scenes were a complete manga original.

When I was writing the novel, I had to come up with a title for Karin Nanase's TV series, so I pulled out the "Funny Words that I May Use for Something Someday" notebook that I keep habitually to help with my writing, and picked something fitting—I didn't bother to think about any sort of content for the show at all.

It started with one of my notes, "*Kaenhôshaki* (Flamethrower) Girl," and because I felt like it sounded a little cool and stylish, I turned it into the more Japanese-sounding "*Hifuki Musume* (the Girl Who Breathes Fire)." Then I thought about what word I could attach to it to make it even funnier, and the word "*seishun* (youth, adolescence)" came into my mind. I remember thinking it felt too heavy all on its own, so I added an exclamation point to bring out its "pop" essence. That's where I ran



THE FIRST
EVER
MAKURAZAKA
CUP—KURŌ
SAKURAGAWA
VS. STEEL
LADY NANASE.

First Makurazaka Cup

桜川 七郎 VS 鋼人 七瀬

Kurō Sakuragawa vs. Steel Lady Nanase

THE DREAM MATCH

AND
NOW, IN/
SPECTRE
VOLUME
TWO
FINALLY
PRESENTS!

DAH-DA-
DAH-DAH
DAH-DAH

COM-
MENTARY
WILL BE
PROVIDED
BY THE
SPECTRES'
GODDESS
OF WIS-
DOM...

I'M YOUR
ANNOUNCER,
SAKI
YUMIHARA,

YES, MY
WEDDING
TO KURŌ-
SENPAI WILL
BE A GRAND
AFFAIR HELD
IN THE MOST
LUXURIOUS
VENUE IN
THE CITY.

THAT'S
NOT WHAT
I WAS
ASKING.

...KOTOKO
IWANAGA-SAN.
THANK YOU
FOR JOINING
US.

≠
SMART

HE'S EATEN
ALL KINDS
OF THINGS TO
PREPARE FOR
THE SEASON,
AND UNDER-
GONE TRAINING
UPON
TRAINING.

I MUST
SAY I DO
HAVE HIGH
HOPES FOR
SAKURA-
GAWA-
SENSHU.

NOW,
THE BATTLE
BETWEEN STEEL
LADY NANASE AND
SAKURAGAWA-
SENSHU IS
BEGINNING IN
EARNEST. HOW
DOES IT LOOK
TO YOU,
IWANAGA-SAN?



SAKURAGAWA-
SENSHU HAS
TOLD US THAT HIS
GRANDMOTHER
TRAINED HIM
WHEN HE WAS
YOUNG, BUT CAN
HE REALLY DEFEAT
THIS SEASONED
VETERAN?

YES. I'M
SURE WE'LL SEE
A FULL DISPLAY
OF THIS POWER,
THAT POWER,
ALL HIS
POWERS.

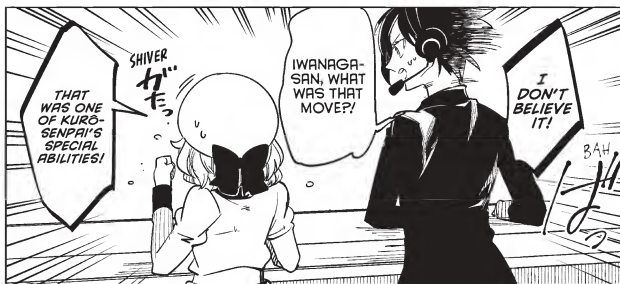
I SEE.
THAT WILL
BE SOME-
THING TO
WATCH
FOR.

WAS
KURŌ-KUN
ALWAYS
THAT COM-
BATIVE?

WO-
PAH

SHA-
KING







Thank you very much for picking up this manga. I hope you'll read the next volume, too!

Katase

- staff -

Kuro Shima
Tonpu
Yamada
Yamamoto

- Editors -

O-kawa
T-da

(honoriaries excluded)



TRANSLATION NOTES

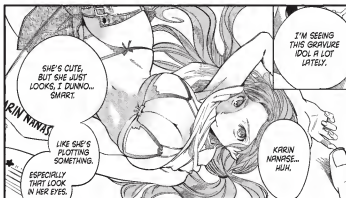


As big as my bathroom, page 5

To give a clearer idea of the enormous size of Kotoko's home, when she says Saki's apartment is as big as her bathroom, she is referring specifically to the *toire*, or toilet room, containing only a toilet and no actual bathing facilities. In Japanese homes, bathtubs and showers are usually in a separate room.

Gravure idol, page 36

The short definition of "gravure idol" is a model who often wears skimpy clothing. The term comes from "rotogravure," which is a printing process that was used for magazines at the time these models first came into vogue. While they often pose provocatively, a gravure idol generally appeals to her audience with her playfulness or innocence.



Late-night serial drama, page 37-44



Like many places around the world, late-night television in Japan tends to have looser restrictions on what can be shown and has cheaper ad costs, allowing for more experimental and risqué programming. The adult nature and goofiness of a show like "Youth! The Girl Who Breathes Fire!" normally wouldn't be shown on public television during primetime hours, so they often have to

be relegated to between the hours of 11 pm and 5 am, the hours for late-night programming (JP: *shinya bangumi*). Interestingly, shows like this were most prevalent in the 80s during Japan's "bubble era" but since the collapse of the economic bubble, Japanese television has become increasingly conservative and TV viewership has dropped considerably, so these types of programs aren't really seen much or are rather tame compared to what used to be shown.



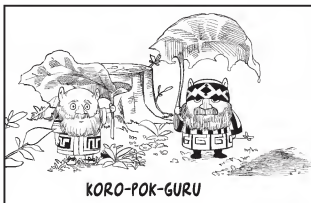
Teikyô-me, page 40

Most Japanese television programs have a brief moment before a commercial break to present the sponsors for the show being broadcast. When this happens, the kanji for "brought to you by" or "sponsor" (提供 or teikyô) is overlaid onto a freeze-frame from the show along with the

sponsor's name as an announcer says something to the effect of "XX is brought to you by these sponsors." In recent years, people have spotted instances where the "sponsor" kanji has been laid perfectly over a character's eyes. This became a meme of sorts in Japan and there are people who also collect screen grabs of these funny scenes. These scenes have even become famous enough that some people suspect animation and production companies may be purposely setting up freeze-frames to create these teikyô-me (sponsor eyes). They are also known as teikyô-megane (sponsor glasses) or teikyô-metsubushi (sponsor blinders).

Koro-pok-guru, page 83

The Koro-pok-guru are a race of little people who live in northern Japan and are small enough to fit under a butterbur leaf, as pictured. They are part of the folklore of the Ainu indigenous people of Hokkaido and were on very friendly terms with humans, but were very shy, and although they would leave people gifts, they almost always did it under cover of night.



The Other Wight Meat, page 85

"Wight" is a word for supernatural creatures, like yôkai. The original Japanese title of this chapter is "The Other Mazarimono," or "blended thing," referring to the other type of yôkai meat that turned Kurô into what he is today.



Seafood kata yakisoba, page 105

This is a dish of fried noodles and seafood. The *kata* part means "hard," indicating that the noodles have been cooked until they are crispy.

Thank you for the meal, page 143

It is customary in Japan to say *itadakimasu* before eating, a phrase that means "I humbly partake." This is generally considered to be a way of expressing gratitude to anyone or anything who played a role in putting this meal on the table.



Nii-san, page 144

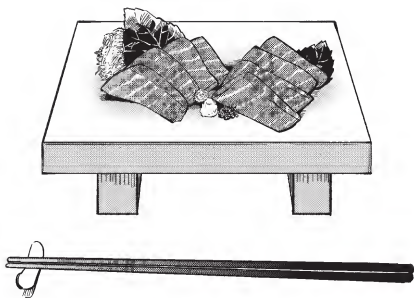
Nii-san literally means "older brother" and is used to address people who are the speaker's older brother, or people that the speaker considers to be brotherly figures, or as a polite way to address a young man when the speaker doesn't know the man's name. In this case, because Kurô is with his grandmother, it's likely that these boys are his brothers and/or cousins. Older sisters and girl cousins would be called *Nê-san*.

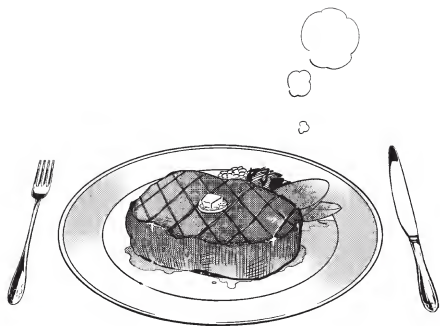
Senshu, page 175

Senshu is another title attached to people's names in order to show respect, like *sensei*. It is given to athletes, such as baseball players, soccer players, martial artists, and fighters in supernatural death matches.



IN/SPECTRE





PRAISE FOR THE ANIME!

"This series never fails to put a smile on my face."

-Dramatic Reviews

"A very funny look at what happens when two strange and strangely well-suited people try to navigate the thorny path to true love together."

-Anime News Network

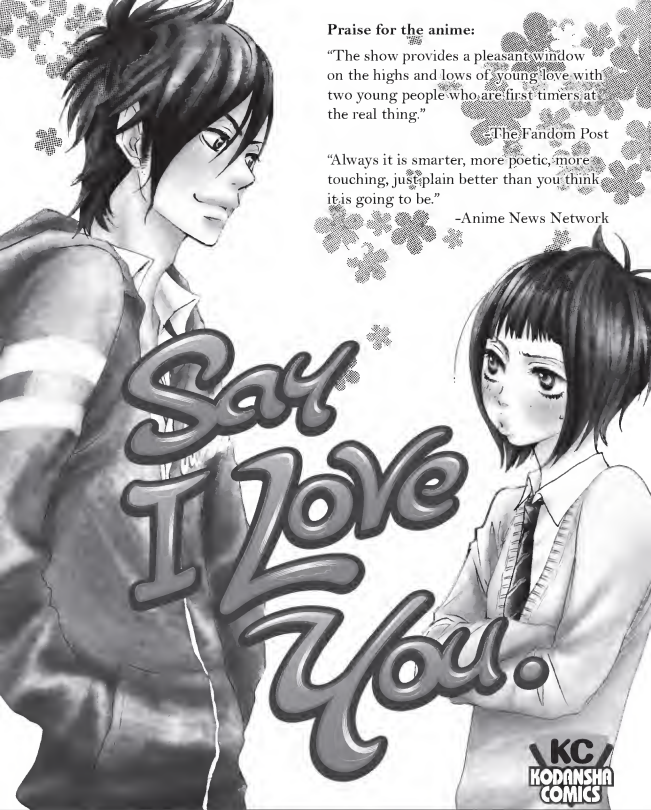


The illustration shows two anime-style characters. In the foreground, a boy with dark, messy hair and a serious expression is walking towards the viewer. He is wearing a light-colored short-sleeved shirt, patterned pants, and a choker with a chain that loops around his neck and arm. He has a bag slung over his shoulder. Behind him, a girl with long dark hair in pigtails is walking. She is wearing a light-colored short-sleeved shirt and a plaid skirt. She is holding a book in her right hand and looking back over her shoulder with a concerned expression. The background is plain white.

My Little Monster

OPPOSITES ATTRACT...MAYBE?

Haru Yoshida is feared as an unstable and violent "monster." Mizutani Shizuku is a grade-obsessed student with no friends. Fate brings these two together to form the most unlikely pair. Haru firmly believes he's in love with Mizutani and she firmly believes he's insane.



Praise for the anime:

"The show provides a pleasant window on the highs and lows of young love with two young people who are first timers at the real thing."

—The Fandom Post

"Always it is smarter, more poetic, more touching, just plain better than you think it is going to be."

—Anime News Network

Say I Love You.

KC
KODANSHA
COMICS

Mei Tachibana has no friends — and says she doesn't need them!

But everything changes when she accidentally roundhouse kicks the most popular boy in school! However, Yamato Kurosawa isn't angry in the slightest — in fact, he thinks his ordinary life could use an unusual girl like Mei. But winning Mei's trust will be a tough task. How long will she refuse to say, "I love you"?

DON'T MISS THE MOST ACCLAIMED ACTION MANGA OF 2013!

"Gripping doesn't begin to describe Vinland Saga. 5 stars."
—ICv2

"Deeply engrossing... If you have any interest at all in Vikings, the Medieval period, or pirates, this is not a series you want to miss."
—Anime News Network

"The art is gorgeous, a combination of beautiful cartooning and realistic backgrounds. Yukimura is also a master of pacing, both in frenetic battle scenes and charged emotional moments."
—Faith Erin Hicks, *Friends With Boys*

"For those who love Berserk, you'll love this too... Worth the long wait."
—A Case Suitable for Treatment

"It will be impossible to stop watching this story unfold."
—Japan Media Arts Awards jury

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COMICS

A VIKING EPIC FROM THE
AUTHOR OF "PLANETES"

VINLAND SAGA

AVAILABLE NOW IN HARDCOVER

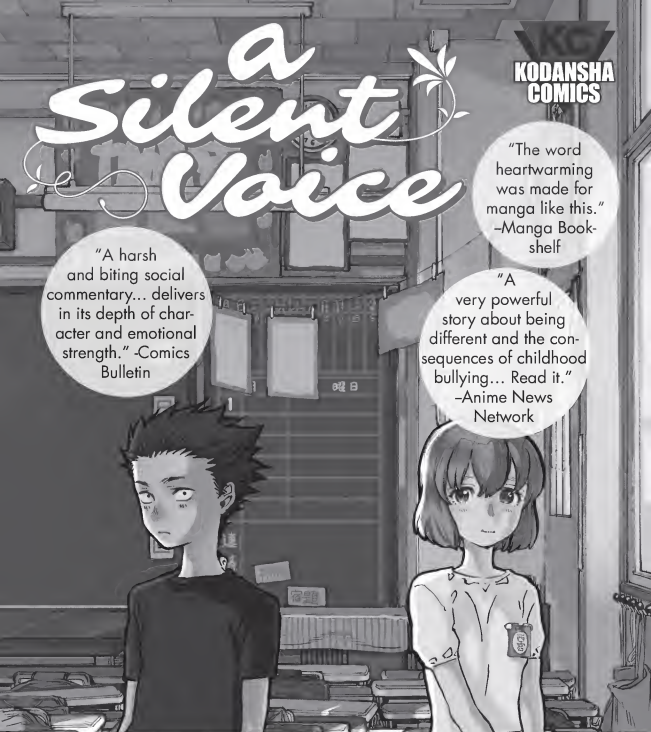
a Silent Voice

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COMICS

"A harsh and biting social commentary... delivers in its depth of character and emotional strength." -Comics Bulletin

"The word heartwarming was made for manga like this." -Manga Bookshelf

"A very powerful story about being different and the consequences of childhood bullying... Read it." -Anime News Network



Shoya is a bully. When Shoko, a girl who can't hear, enters his elementary school class, she becomes their favorite target, and Shoya and his friends goad each other into devising new tortures for her. But the children's cruelty goes too far. Shoko is forced to leave the school, and Shoya ends up shouldering all the blame. Six years later, the two meet again. Can Shoya make up for his past mistakes, or is it too late?

Available now in print and digitally!

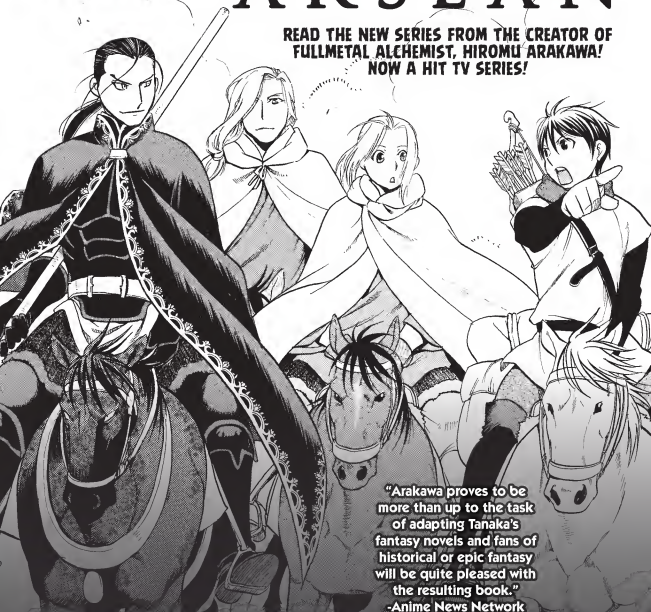
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NOW A HIT TV SERIES!



"Arakawa proves to be more than up to the task of adapting Tanaka's fantasy novels and fans of historical or epic fantasy will be quite pleased with the resulting book."
-Anime News Network

ECBATANA IS BURNING!

Arslan is the young and curious prince of Pars who, despite his best efforts doesn't seem to have what it takes to be a proper king like his father. At the age of 14, Arslan goes to his first battle and loses everything as the blood-soaked mist of war gives way to scorching flames, bringing him to face the demise of his once glorious kingdom. However, it is Arslan's destiny to be a ruler, and despite the trials that face him, he must now embark on a journey to reclaim his fallen kingdom.

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INUYASHIKI

**A superhero like none
you've ever seen, from the
creator of "Gantz"!**

**ICHIRO INUYASHIKI IS DOWN ON HIS LUCK. HE LOOKS MUCH
OLDER THAN HIS 58 YEARS, HIS CHILDREN DESPISE HIM, AND
HIS WIFE THINKS HE'S A USELESS COWARD. SO WHEN HE'S
DIAGNOSED WITH STOMACH CANCER AND GIVEN THREE MONTHS
TO LIVE, IT SEEMS THE ONLY ONE WHO'LL MISS HIM IS HIS DOG.**

**THEN A BLINDING LIGHT FILLS THE SKY, AND THE OLD MAN
IS KILLED... ONLY TO WAKE UP LATER IN A BODY HE ALMOST
RECOGNIZES AS HIS OWN. CAN IT BE THAT ICHIRO INUYASHIKI
IS NO LONGER HUMAN?**

COMES IN EXTRA-LARGE EDITIONS WITH COLOR PAGES!



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COMICS**

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Maria

THE VIRGIN WITCH

"Maria's brand of righteous justice, passion and plain talking make for one of the freshest manga series of 2015. I dare any other book to top it."

—UK Anime Network

PURITY AND POWER

As a war to determine the rightful ruler of medieval France ravages the land, the witch Maria decides she will not stand idly by as men kill each other in the name of God and glory. Using her powerful magic, she summons various beasts and demons—even going as far as using a succubus to seduce soldiers into submission under the veil of night—all to stop the needless slaughter. However, after the Archangel Michael puts an end to her meddling, he curses her to lose her powers if she ever gives up her virginity. Will she forgo the forbidden fruit of adulthood in order to bring an end to the merciless machine of war?

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Yamada-kun AND THE Seven Witches

KODANSHA
COMICS

*"A very funny manga with a
lot of heart and character."*
—Adventures in Poor Taste

SWAPPED WITH A KISS?!

Class troublemaker Ryu Yamada is already having a bad day when he stumbles down a staircase along with star student Urara Shiraishi. When he wakes up, he realizes they have switched bodies—and that Ryu has the power to trade places with anyone just by kissing them! Ryu and Urara take full advantage of the situation to improve their lives, but with such an oddly amazing power, just how long will they be able to keep their secret under wraps?

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In/Spectre 2

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First published in Japan in 2015 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.
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English digital edition published by Kodansha Advanced Media, LLC,
San Francisco.

www.kodanshacomics.com

ISBN: 9781682335413

Digital Edition: 1.0.0

Translation: Alethea Nibley & Athena Nibley
Lettering: Lys Blakeslee
Editing: Ajani Oloye
Kodansha Comics edition cover design: Phil Balsman

